

Labour tables censure motion against Government

The Shadow Cabinet tabled a censure motion on the Government last night, the first of the present Parliament. It expresses "no confidence" in the Conservatives' economic and industrial policies and reflects Labour's anger over what it sees as the Government's strict adherence to monetarist policies without regard to social consequences.

Attack on 'disastrous' economic policies

By George Clark
Political Correspondent

To bring maximum pressure on the Government to change its "disastrous policies", the Labour Shadow Cabinet last night tabled a motion of censure which must have precedence in the parliamentary business next week.

It states bluntly: "that this House has no confidence in the economic and industrial policies of Her Majesty's Government". The attack will be led from the front bench by Mr James Callaghan and Mr Denis Healey, former Chancellor of the Exchequer.

It is the first censure motion of the present Parliament and reflects the anger of Labour MPs at the effects of the Government's strict adherence to monetarist policies without regard to social and economic consequences.

General strike urged by seamen's leader

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

The trade union revolt against government policies went a stage further yesterday when TUC leaders were urged to mount a general strike rather than be swept aside by rank-and-file strikes of the kind being called by miners in South Wales.

The proposal was put to a meeting of the TUC Employment, Policy and Organisation Committee by Mr James Slater, general secretary of the National Union of Seamen, during a heated debate on the labour movement's response to government plans to withdraw legal immunities from secondary industrial action.

There was no vote on the idea, but in the aftermath of the announcement by Mr James Slater, Secretary of State for Employment, of new curbs on union power, a growing expectation of serious conflict was reported by several members of the committee.

Union leaders are to seek an early meeting with Mr Slater to make their protests known, and if representations are ignored, the employment committee will refuse to have any further dealings with the Government.

"What's the use of a dialogue with the deaf?" asked one general secretary last night.

A confidential policy paper on the Prior amendments to the Employment Bill on secondary strikes and lockouts approved at the meeting accuses the

BL workers in 10-1 vote against strike

From Clifford Webb
Birmingham

On a bitterly cold, mist-shrouded evening, 12,000 BL Longbridge workers yesterday voted by 10-1 against a strike to secure the reinstatement of Mr Derek Robinson, the communist shop steward leader who had urged them to disrupt the recovery plan formulated by Sir Michael Edwards, BL chairman.

A delighted Sir Michael heard the news eight miles away in Birmingham, where he was about to address a meeting of 800 industrialists. He told them: "Uncertainty about the future of BL is one of our biggest problems. But there was no uncertainty this morning about our Longbridge employees' determination to stay at work."

"That news is going to spread like wild fire through the country and it will make a big difference to our 'Buy British' sales campaign."

Before the Longbridge workers' mass meeting a confident Mr Robinson had said he was happy to leave his future in the hands of his fellow workers. When a sea of hands ended his reign as the single most powerful shop steward in British industry he shook his head in disbelief.

As he climbed from the back of a lorry serving as the platform for speakers he blamed the media for conducting a sustained campaign against him. Surrounded by a few dozen grim-faced supporters, he said: "Our members have made the wrong decision here today. They will live to regret it for the rest of their lives. In the fullness of time they might even seek to canonise me as a saint."

He said he had no plans to seek another job and there must now be considerable doubt about his ability to find employment. "I wasn't expecting this," he said. "I have not thought about what I should do in the event of a rejection."

However, he said he might seek election to full-time union official, possibly to the national executive at present held by Mr Ken Carr, a member of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers' three-man inquiry team which found that he had been wrongfully dismissed.

It was apparent from the time workers began to gather in the natural amphitheatre provided by Cofon Park playing fields, adjoining Longbridge, that the anti-Robinson feeling was not only widespread but, unusually for men holding moderate views, organized.

Several groups composed of 500 to 600 men carrying placards declaring "Out with Robbo" were seen. On your bike, Robbo, was one of the slogans.

The first speaker, Mr Benson, secretary of the UEW's Birmingham West district committee which recommended strike action, was subjected to incessant booing. The same noisy disapproval greeted the other speakers: Mr John Barker, the Transport and General Workers' Union full-time official responsible for Longbridge; Mr William Jordan, Midlands divisional organiser of the AUEW; and Mr Jack Adams, chairman of the Longbridge joint stewards' committee.

All attempted to make the point that a vote against strike action would be a blow to the whole trade union movement.

Finally Mr Robinson moved to the microphone. He was greeted with a shower of missiles which included large rubber washers and a few smaller metal ones. They were thrown high into the air and landed harmlessly around him.

As he began to speak a group of several hundred strong near the centre began to sing: "Go home, you bum". Another group chanted: "Work, work, work."

When the voting was taken less than 1,000 of the estimated 12,000 to 14,000 present put their hands up for a strike. The counter-vote was estimated by most observers to be a majority of at least 10-1.

The unexpected size of the anti-strike vote came as a shock to both sides.



Pickets and police clash outside Sheerness Steel.

Siege of Sheerness peters out and the plant carries on

From Nicholas Timmins
Sheerness

The siege of Sheerness peters out yesterday with the town's steel plant still rolling and its work force evidently determined to work on.

About 1,300 pickets and 1,000 police descended on the Kent port, in the Isle of Sheppey, most of them before dawn on a day that saw 21 arrests with five pickets taken to hospital after a series of sporadic incidents, some of them violent.

No lorries attempted to enter the plant, although company employees said 2,000 tonnes of steel were moved out overnight. The feared clash between townswomen, steelworkers' wives and the pickets was averted when the wives' organisers agreed to please from the police and the steel company not to mount their counter-picket. Instead they marched round the town their ranks swelling to almost 1,000; shopkeepers and passers-by applauded, and the few pickets in the streets at the time jeered.

Coachloads of steelworkers from all over Britain, including about 100 women, tracked down by some police officers after a motorway by police, picketed the plant backed by 350 Kent miners. About 500 police were deployed at a time to control the crowd.

Some steelworkers complained bitterly of over-reaction by some police officers after a series of clashes from which five people were taken to hospital with sprains, bruises and, in one case, a cut head. All were discharged after treatment.

One of the 21 arrested people was a woman and at least three were charged with assaulting the police.

Trouble started at 6.30 am as

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Police chiefs happy with law
Welsh miners poised to strike
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BSC deadline is deferred

Police forced pickets back from the plant's access road, which was closed throughout the day. Two arrests were made and a couple of women pickets were knocked over and cut in the crush.

Later, eight local farmers bearing "right to work" placards clashed with the steelworkers, two receiving a bloodied nose and a cut head as their wooden placards hit them.

Serious trouble almost erupted as the cold dawned pickets set off round the back streets near the steel plant. A van carrying three men drove at speed through the column before being stopped by a police officer. Pickets rocked the van and tried to drag out the driver, who was hauled away by a police officer.

A can, some fruit and a placard were thrown at the police in the middle.

The worst incident occurred as pickets attempted to march into the town past a police cordon. Seven arrests were made and three people taken to hospital, including Mrs Penny Jackson, from Scunthorpe, who claimed police dragged her down. "They kicked my head and dragged me by the hair along the floor," she said.

A reporter on the scene said, however, that she knocked her head against a wall as she fell in the crush and police went to help her. "There was no

Soviet officers meet secretly on deepening role in Afghanistan

From Robert Fisk,
Kabul, Feb 20

The Russians are still in Afghanistan. And in spite of the expiry today of President Carter's deadline for the Soviet Army's withdrawal from the country, they seem poised for an even more active military involvement in the war against the Afghan rebels. Especially along the border with Pakistan.

Six senior Soviet Army officers have just held a secret meeting here in Kabul with the Afghan Minister of the Interior to decide how they should combat the increasing threat from the *mohajeddin* guerrillas who virtually surround the city.

For days at a time, Jalalabad has been cut off from the capital—the main road to Kabul is so unsafe that the Russian officers, together with the Minister, had to be brought to Jalalabad by helicopter—and Soviet ground troops appear to be committed to the battle against the rebels near the Pakistan frontier for the first time since the Russian military intervention in December.

Even so, Mr Saad Mohammad Gulabzai, the Minister, was conferring with the six Russians, all of whom were in uniform. Soviet troops drove ten T-62 tanks through the centre of Jalalabad, the first time they have appeared outside the barracks on the east of the city.

They trundled past the entrance of the heavily-guarded Spinghar Hotel where the Russians and the Afghan Minister were in conference in the lounge, and drove off in the direction of Sukh Radd, a rebel-held village seven miles from the city.

Heavy firing could be heard from the hamlet about an hour later and Soviet helicopters, armed with rockets and machineguns, raced low over the hotel a few minutes later, heading in the same direction.

No statement was issued about the Spinghar conference, nor was it expected that news of the meeting would become known, but the Russians and the Afghan security officers who accompanied them from Kabul happened to have chosen a hotel in which the only two guests were the correspondents of *The Times* and *The Guardian*.

We watched them arrive, escorted by security police wearing riot visors, who erected belt-fed machine-guns on tripods upon the hotel grounds. One of the Afghan officers asked why he and his colleagues had been sent to the city replied in Farsi: "We have come to kill".

No one can be any doubt of the new and less tame nature of the war around Jalalabad. Mines now explode daily.

Continued on page 8, col 3

Donor heart had fault, coroner says

By John Roper

Britain's first woman recipient of a heart transplant died because there was a fault in the donor heart which could not have been detected without cutting it open, Mr John Burton, the West London coroner, said yesterday.

The coroner, who held an inquiry in chambers into Mrs Hayward's death eight hours after the transplant operation at Harefield Hospital, near Uxbridge, Middlesex, said that the post-mortem examination showed that there was no mishap in the operation.

Examination showed that there was an area of abnormality in the septum, lying between the lower chambers of the heart.

It was not possible to say at this stage that the fault was connected with the injury to the donor, who died in a motor accident. It would explain why the heart worked well at first but failed a few hours later.

The donor heart was removed by Mr Magdi Yacoub, the consultant surgeon who leads the Harefield transplant team. Guidelines lay down that at all times medical transplant teams must be independent of doctors treating a potential donor. But once the brain death of the donor has been certified by two independent doctors, the removal of an organ by a surgeon who will transplant it to the recipient is accepted as good practice.

Funeral for a trust fund Hayward, aged 12, the daughter of Mrs Hayward (the Press Association reports).

Mrs Gandhi opponents losing hopes for freedom

From William Frankel
Delhi, Feb 20

Is India moving towards dictatorship? Mr Charan Singh, the former Prime Minister in an interview with *The Times*, predicted the end of democracy in the country under his successor, Mrs Indira Gandhi.

Hopes that she may have learned from the past have been dissipated during her first weeks in office, he says.

Sitting in his large, sparsely furnished office, Mr Singh spoke wearily, his soft voice often fading into inaudibility. But the vigour of his message was in startling contrast.

"She is hungry for power and has an overwhelming ambition. There are as many problems here and her popular approach to solve them will lead to dictatorship. She will do away with the constitution to give herself dictatorial power."

When I asked why he thought so, he replied simply: "She is made that way."

Mrs Gandhi's aunt, Mrs Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit, Nehru's sister who has held many high offices of state in India, was equally disturbed by the actions of Mrs Gandhi since returning to power last month.

"Every suspicion I had of Indira is gradually being confirmed," she said.

The return to power of the strong-arm men of Mr Sanjay Gandhi, the Prime Minister's younger son, appalled Mrs Pandit, as did Mrs Gandhi's

Continued on page 8, col 7

Mr Prior defends his 'middle way'

By Fred Emery
Political Editor

In passionate defence of his "middle way" reforms of trade union law, Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, last night said it was a "tragedy" that it was "cowardice" or "giving in to threats of blackmail" or "abdication".

Mr Prior started quietly in repudiation. But his voice rose rapidly as this colour deepened as he retorted that the man on the omnibus expected those who led it to help unite the country not to divide it further. It would do the country no good, he said, if he led them into possible civil disobedience and further strikes.

It might be easier and require less effort to be tougher than he had been in his proposals. But he declared: "Sometimes it requires courage to stand against the stream. I believe I

am standing against the stream." Many wanted to go further, but Mr Prior argued that would have been wrong. It would not work and not be in the interests of the country. The man on the omnibus would be the first to complain if they got it wrong.

Mr Prior came to the committee appealing for an "all party approach" to the law, but while Labour MPs were gentle with him, it was he who wanted no interference with present law, and so caused his dismay. He warned MPs that many people abroad were looking to see whether Britain was prepared to take the necessary steps to get its industrial relations right.

If as a result they were seen not to work then industrial democracy, indeed democracy itself, could be put at risk.

EEC rebuff to Britain in lamb war battle

From Michael Hornsby
Brussels, Feb 20

The European Commission delivered a rebuff to Britain here by deciding not to seek, for the time being, an interim injunction from the European Court of Justice against illegal French curbs on imports of British lamb.

Mr Peter Walker, the Minister of Agriculture, said in Brussels on Monday that the Commission would be failing in its duty as guardian of the Rome Treaty and "setting a very dangerous precedent" if a decision was not taken today.

The French import controls have already been condemned once as illegal by the Court of Justice last September.

It could take up to six months for the court to pronounce again, and it is open to the Commission in the interim period to ask the court to order the French to abolish their import controls pending a final ruling. This is what Mr Walker is pressing for.

However, the Commission is reluctant to do this on the ground that it would merely advertise yet again the importance of both itself and the court when faced with a member state which simply refuses to obey the law.

Earnings rise by nearly 20 per cent

Average earnings during 1979 increased by nearly 20 per cent. The increase was described in Whitehall as a "dreadful warning to the country" and is regarded as a big setback for the Government. There is concern that pay negotiations in progress will exceed the 1979 rate and fuel inflation further. Ministers are stressing that big pay awards will increase inflation and lead to fewer jobs.

Pretoria threat

South African newspapers have carried obviously inspired reports from Pretoria that if chaos broke out in Rhodesia after the election South Africa would send troops there whether they were invited or not. Mr Botma, the Prime Minister, has denied that any South African troops are still in Rhodesia.

Iran visit delayed

The five United Nations commissioners who are to look into Iranian complaints are not now expected to arrive in Tehran until the weekend.

Bonn holds back on boycott of games

West Germany is delaying its decision on an Olympic boycott to give the Soviet Union another chance over Afghanistan. Herr Helmut Schmidt, the Chancellor, said there was still plenty of time for a decision.

Labour split fear

Some moderate Labour Party politicians were predicting after a joint meeting of the Shadow Cabinet and the national executive of the party, that Labour was heading for a confrontation in the coming autumn with the distinct possibility of an irreconcilable split.

Nuclear warning

Sir Alan Cottrell, the former government chief scientific adviser, told a House of Commons select committee that the Department of Energy decision to use American-designed pressurised water reactors in Britain was wrong.

Aeolian Sky cleared

Canisters of lethal arsenic trichloride washed up on South Coast beaches did not come from the sunken Greek freighter Aeolian Sky, it was confirmed.

Immigration rules for daughters modified

Revised immigration rules seek to set out clearly that women born of British parents who may have been working overseas at the time of birth will not be subjected to restrictions that are being placed on the daughters of immigrants. The original proposals had been criticized by many MPs.

Pornography meeting: Mrs Whitehouse tells Home Secretary that she wants report on obscenity and film censorship to be rejected.

Local government: Associations submit plans to Mr Heseltine with the aim of avoiding the Government's proposed block grant system.

Irish border security: Mr Haughey tells the Dail that secret deal negotiated between Mr Lynch and Mrs Thatcher will be continued.

Netherlands: Dutch on verge of Cabinet crisis after Finance Minister resigns.

Leader page 15

Letters: On Conservative policies, from Lord on EEC farm proposals, from Mr Wynne Godley, on rugby violence, from Mr B. H. Gale and Mr H. W. Yoxall.

Reviews: Roy Fuller's memoirs, Fay Weldon's new novel, Anthonie Waugh's account of the Thorpe trial, Solzhenitsyn, and new fiction by Peter Tinniswood.

Arts: page 13. Glenda Roberts interviews Ken Loach, director of the film *Black Jack* which opens in London today.

Features: page 14. Ronald Burr on the political implications of the steel strike; Roger Berthoud on old to the new world; Dr Tony Smith on a breakthrough for treating breast cancer; Obituary, page 16. Sir Roger Stevens, Miss Muriel Brunskill.

Sport, pages 10, 11. Winter Olympics: Setbacks for favourites in women's giant slalom; Rugby Union: Gordon Brown returns to the team; Scotland recall McLauchlan as replacement; Tennis: Mottram in final at Kuala Lumpur.

Business pages 18-24

Stock Markets: Equities spent another day in the doldrums although gilt was better on reports of a lower PSBR target. The FT index fell 3.5 to 458.3.

Home News 2, 3, 5, 6. Court 16. Letters 15, 20. Sport 10, 11. European News 6, 7. Crossword 23. Obituary 16. Parliament 16. Arts 16. Sale Room 16. Books 17. Features 12, 14. Business 18-24. Law Report 24. Snow reports 16. Wills 16.

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Some Labour moderates predict showdown in autumn with possibility of a final party split

abolition of the Lords sped a stronger line on the construction industry.

Mr John Golding, a centre-right member of the national executive, said the leader of the party would be in an impossible position. When a general election came he would be hounded by the press about where he stood on each issue. Moreover, questions would be asked why the committee had concluded in one year's manifesto draft and dropped from the next.

The big question, he said, would be whether the leader was going to resign, and that would be asked during an election campaign.

Mr Foot counselled against a rolling manifesto by saying that the annual conference would not be a position to list priorities. That would come when the general election was announced.

Mr Healey, former Chancellor of the Exchequer, said the availability of resources was also fundamental. Conference delegates, if they drew up the manifesto, would not be in a position to know what they were.

Is happy law

placed on the min an industrial discor

Mr Goodson said: "We have to make sure that those who want to go to work can do so, and we also have to enforce the law. These are distinct and separate things.

"The law says that pickets can be present in sufficient numbers to persuade people peacefully. When the number of pickets grows so large that they become intimidating, that is illegal.

"The commanding police officers at the scene had to make a judgment as to when a picket ceases to be peaceful and becomes intimidating."

He ruled out as impractical any new legislation laying down a precise limit on the number of pickets who can constitute a peaceful picket.

Sir Philip Knights, Chief Constable of West Midlands Police said: "In my area in the last year we have had one case where two pickets were sufficient to close a down a factory. At Grunwick, you could have over a thousand people picketing and the workers still getting through."

When 1,000 people turned up at a factory it was no longer a picket to close a demonstration; and it was unlawful.

use wants ort rejected

Mr Whitelaw has promised to study the evidence of Dr John Courtenay, senior in psychology at Flinders University, Adelaide, whose submission to the Williams committee formed a crucial part of the evidence but which, according to Mrs Whitehouse, was largely disregarded.

Mr Whitelaw has also agreed to look into the claim made by Mrs Whitehouse that, since the publication of the Williams report, there had been a significant increase in the amount of nudity shown on television.

Also in today's *Listener*; Edward Goldwyn tells how a Chinese medical team is combating an extraordinary epidemic of cancer in the remote Jin Xian Valley.

Edited by Anthony Howard
Out today 30p

date of his marriage without the need to have recourse to public funds.

A man holding an entry clearance under these provisions must be invited for three months and advised to apply to the Home Office once the marriage has taken place for an extension of stay. The rules add: "A prohibition on employment should not be imposed."

The new law has recognized the validity of the argument that there would be great difficulty, in some circumstances, for elderly parents and grandparents to show both that they were being supported and that the child was in the United Kingdom and that they had a standard of living substantially below that of their own country.

Police and pickets assembling outside the steelworks at Sheerness yesterday.

miners poisoned week

and we are not prepared to accept any slowdown or trimming of the two plants."

Behind the tough attitude is the fear that the steel programme could threaten up to 15,000 miners' jobs in the area as pits are forced to close through lack of orders for coking coal.

Another minor factor is dissatisfaction with the TUC at national level and a widely held belief among members of influential Congress House committees do not realize the gravity of the situation in Wales.

The South Wales men will also be acting without the full blessing of their national executive committee, who wanted to coordinate any action themselves.

The strike decision was condemned in an unusually forthright statement by Mr Philip Williams, the National Coal Board's assistant director. "This is bloody madness," he said. "I would like to know who will bail us out this time? We have just had massive financial aid from other coalfields to help us have a large part of our market share."

"I am most interested in the politics: I am interested in the pits. Markets, jobs and production have never been more seriously threatened," than by this single tragic act.

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pertitive costs and productivity levels.

BSC chiefs in Brussels today will present a detailed justification for the measures at meetings with Viscount Davignon, the EEC Commissioner for Industry, and Mr. Henk Vredeling, the social affairs commissioner.

Executives will also explore the possibility of securing further financial aid from the Community to alleviate hardship in steel closure areas. Similar talks will take place between TUC leaders and Commission officials.

There was no sensible option open to the BSC which was any stronger than that put forward by Sir Charles Villiers, the corporation's chairman, said.

Sir Charles, along with boardroom colleagues, yesterday described the detailed arguments in support of the cut-backs. Those include a worldwide capacity of 109 million tonnes, the effect of present exchange rates on exports, the collapse of demand, high costs, low productivity and UK inflation.

The corporation disclosed that it expected a demand for steel in 1980-81 of only 14.3 million product tonnes, a steep drop compared with the average in recent years of 15.5 million tonnes.

and outside yards

police said that men were sent to the stockholders' yards in Wishaw and Bellshill as a matter of course to protect the community and maintain a free flow of traffic.

The statement clarifying the criminal law on picketing had been made by the English Attorney General with the approval of the Lord Advocate in Scotland. It applied equally to evidence to Scottish police forces.

The first incident happened at 7.30 am when five pickets were arrested for obstructing a lorry trying to enter the yard of Steel Stockholders in Wishaw.

Later in the day, at the company's Bellshill yard more pickets were arrested after police moved them from the path of lorries.

Mr William Samuel, chairman of Steel Stockholders, said that steel had been moved from the yard with police escorting the lorries. When the disturbance began there were large stocks of steel at the yard and supplies were still adequate to keep business going.

Guards

seized once it has been shown to be unfit for consumption.

The Government and the Association want the Act to outlaw the seizure of food which is suspected of being unfit. The aim is to protect consumers against what was described by Mr John Bamford, head of the National Institute for Research in Agriculture, as "the galloping rations".

If a tin or packet is seized it is dangerous to eat. The present law does not allow officials to prevent the rest of the consignment from being delivered to shops and restaurants. It is only the Department of Health and Social Security issues periodic warnings against eating food with a particular brand name or code

The pickets delivered an open letter to everybody who was willing to accept it. The letter said women employees were subjected to sexual harassment, to spitting, foul language, jeering, sniggering and heavy jostling "as they attempted to get to work."

Once in the miners' hall, Mrs Shirley Rodwell, secretary of the chairman of Hadfield's, demanded to know why the miners had interfered in the steel dispute. When Mr Scargill said they had been invited to do so by the TUC, Mrs Rodwell and the ISTC executive, Mrs Rodwell replied: "You should not have gone. Please leave us alone and let us get on with our jobs."

Mr Scargill was just pointing out that the miners had supported the nurses in their dispute in 1974 when the pickets rose as one woman and left to congregate on the pavement.

Rotherham talks: Shop stewards from 25 private-sector steel companies met at Rotherham yesterday to consider the possibility of a delegate to work with the TUC. It was said the majority of delegates wanted to return.

Private sector return: Production workers at the private Norwegian-owned Manchester Steel Works, near Birtley, Manchester, and the Bidston Steel company, Birkenhead have rejoined the national strike

The fee for a driving test appointment will be increased to £10.30 from £7.30 from March 17, it was announced yesterday.

NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars **FRONTS** (Dashed lines with triangles for cold fronts, semicircles for warm fronts, and alternating triangles and semicircles for occluded fronts) **Isobars** (Lines of equal pressure)

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HOME NEWS

Ministerial impatience at delays in planning

By John Young
Planning Reporter

In an effort to speed planning procedures, the Department of the Environment is to publish regular details of the number of appeals it receives and the time it takes to deal with them.

The department will also ask local authorities to follow its example and provide similar information on planning applications.

In an interview with *The Times*, Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, emphasised his impatience with the long delays that have become an abiding feature of the system.

The rapid release of publicly owned land to the private sector was particularly important for inner urban area regeneration, he said.

A register of all land owned by nationalised industries, as proposed in the Local Government, Planning and Land Bill, was a vital step in the process.

Already a special survey conducted by the department and Liverpool City Council had identified more than 1,000 acres of unused and derelict land, which was being studied site by site.

At the end of our examination, we will know more about the problems of coping with urban decay than anyone has ever known before," he stated.

"That is because, for the first time, we will have details of who owns the land, why it is derelict, and so on."

Mr Heseltine also made it clear that, in his view, money provided by the Government for urban renewal had been spread too thinly over too many projects. He wanted to see it concentrated on specific schemes, which would vary considerably from one place to another.

"But it is important to recognize that there is only a limited role for the Government," he added.

He also affected surprise at the angry response from local authorities to his plans to limit their expenditure, and suggested that the answer lay largely in reducing staffs. His department employed 5 per cent fewer people than when he came to office nine months ago, yet all he was asking local authorities to do was to make a 2½ per cent cut over two years.

Local authorities offer plans to Mr Heseltine to avoid proposed block-grant system

By Christopher Warman
Local Government Correspondent

Plans for financing local government, designed to avoid the introduction of the Government's proposed new block grant system, were yesterday presented to Mr Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, by the local authority associations.

The associations were responding to Mr Heseltine's challenge that if they could come up with an alternative which satisfied the Government's objectives of overall control he would consider it seriously.

Their solution, retaining the needs and resources elements of the rate support grant which would disappear under the Government's proposals, meets Mr Heseltine's objectives. "In the Council of Local Education Authorities," the associations state.

They are convinced that their grant and accountability proposals "can operate within the established constitutional relationships between the local government, central government and Parliament, whereas his proposals funda-

mentally alter those relationships in a manner which can only be detrimental to local and central government, and to public administration in general."

The plans have been prepared jointly by the Association of County Councils, Association of District Councils, Association of Metropolitan Councils, London Boroughs' Association and the Greater London Council.

They argue that the block grant system would encourage overspending and be too complicated.

Accordingly, the associations envisage a new system of assessing the needs of a council, taking account of its population and the groups within it.

They have not yet worked out in detail the new system, but criticise the Government's proposal for a standard expenditure worked out centrally.

"There is no way in which any centrally operated, formula-based needs assessment could ever be good enough to enable the Government to use it to specify what individual authorities ought to be spending," they say.

The associations suggest a framework in which the needs grant distribution would be based on "national" needs assessments. In that the figures would be national, and would not bear any direct relationship to the actual spending of individual authorities.

Changes would be made to the resources element of the grant, which is paid to authorities whose resource value per head of population is below a standard national figure. At present one of the difficulties is that the more an authority spends, the more resources grant it receives. The associations would simply limit the grant by relating an authority's entitlement to its actual expenditure.

The associations urge "most strongly" that Mr Heseltine asks the grants working group to examine and exemplify their proposals, so that they can be included in the Local Government, Planning and Land Bill. Since the Bill is now in its standing committee stages, this is short if they are to force changes in it.

MPs told of role for Polytechnics

By Diana Geddes
Education Correspondent

A clear distinction between the function of the polytechnics and that of the universities needed to be re-established, Mrs Angela Rumbold, chairman of the Council of Local Education Authorities, told a Commons select committee yesterday.

The uncontrolled post-Robbins expansion of higher education was regrettable, she said.

There were many students in universities who should be going to polytechnics, she said. The polytechnics had become identified in the minds of teachers and pupils as something second best to a university, whereas in fact they were intended to fulfil entirely different roles.

The universities were concerned with research and a philosophical approach to education, while the polytechnics were designed to respond more to national and local needs and should not indulge in high-level research. Unfortunately, there

had been some blurring of the edges between the work done in the two types of institution in recent years.

Representatives of both the Association of County Councils and the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, who were giving evidence to the Select Committee on Education, Science and the Arts, were adamant that the polytechnics and other maintained colleges offering courses of higher education should remain under the control of local authorities, and wholly separate from the universities.

They agreed, however, that there was a need for a national body, including a strong local authority element, to plan and distribute funds to higher education within the maintained sector, and that a new national joint committee, consisting of members of that body and of the University Grants Committee, should be set up to help coordinate higher education across the binary line.

On overseas student fees, the

local authorities said they did not believe that any college would be at risk because of the new high fees, although some courses in subjects like engineering might have to close.

Speaking at the annual meeting of the Association of Principals of Colleges, in London yesterday, Dr Rhodes Boyson, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Education and Science, said that the interim measures recently introduced by the Government to rationalise higher education courses in the public sector was not at present a prelude to a rationalisation of institutions. No secret master plan on college closures existed.

The Government hoped that the findings of a new ad hoc departmental committee on the unit costs of courses in different subjects would provide a base on which to make more sophisticated decisions about the future financing and planning of higher education than had been possible in the short term.



The Queen with two residents after opening the Hope Town Salvation Army hostel for women at Whitechapel, east London, yesterday.

Industrial injuries aid reviewed

By Pat Healy
Social Services Correspondent

The first review of the industrial injuries scheme since its introduction in 1948 was launched yesterday in a consultative document published by the Department of Health and Social Security. Ministers denied that the review foreshadowed any intention of abolishing the scheme, but said any changes must not involve extra cost.

"Society owes a special debt to people injured at work or to the widows of those killed at work," Mr Reg Prentice, Minister for Social Security, said. The review, ordered by the previous Labour Government in the wake of the Royal Commission on Civil Liability and Compensation for Personal Injury, has been compiled by officials and does represent government policy.

The basic question posed is whether a preferential scheme is still justified in view of improved sickness and invalidity benefits since the mid-1960s. But Mr Prentice admitted that the review might conflict with government proposals to make

employers responsible for sickness benefit during the first eight weeks.

The review says a preferential scheme is still needed so long as economic circumstances rule out a comprehensive disability benefit scheme at industrial injury levels for all disabled people.

Many of the suggestions involve one group of the industrially injured gaining at the expense of others. For example, it is argued that the full cost of the "preference" under industrial injury benefit paid for up to 26 weeks at £275 more than the sickness rate, could be saved. That money could be used to bring forward, from the present 26 weeks, the date on which disability benefit becomes payable.

The £275-a-week differential has remained unchanged since 1966, and its value has fallen from 73 per cent above the sickness benefit level in 1948 to 15 per cent.

Apart from abolishing the benefit altogether, the review suggests it could either be increased, at a cost of £24m if its 70-per-cent lead were re-established, or maintained as now. Disability benefit is not

regarded as needing much change. The review points out that a pensioner assessed as 100 per cent disabled can, under the industrial injuries scheme, draw £56.20 a week tax free, compared to £28.20 for someone with no disablement pension.

The review suggests that changes are needed in the allowances that can be paid on top of disablement pension. The special hardship allowance paid to people with less than 100 per cent disability to compensate for loss of earnings capacity contains many anomalies.

The review suggests that the allowance could end at retirement age, compensate only for half of lost earnings up to £30.40 a week, and be withdrawn where invalidity benefit is also being paid. The combined savings would total at least £50m a year, of which £45m could be spent on raising the maximum allowance.

The review questions the existence of six different rates for attendance needs under the industrial injuries scheme, helping 2,370 people, compared with the 271,000 receiving two rates of attendance allowance under the main social security scheme.

Face lift and all mod con for top end of Britain

From Ronald Faux
John o' Groats

John o' Groats, incorrectly famous as the most northerly point of the British mainland, is to have a government-sponsored face lift.

The remote village attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors each year and has little to offer except a sense of having arrived.

There are no proper car parking facilities, no recreational guides, and one public lavatory in a wooden shed which is locked in winter.

The Countryside Commission for Scotland has approved grants towards the cost of acquiring land for a visitors' centre and developing a public car park and other facilities for tourists.

The improvements, announced yesterday, will be carried out by the Highland Regional Council at a cost of more than £66,000.

Local and central government authorities have for years tried to resolve what they call the "visitor reception and environmental problems" at John o' Groats which, by a thin slice of latitude, yields to Dumfries Head, a few miles to the west as the most northerly point on the British mainland.

Mr Duncan Macleod, proprietor of the John o' Groats Hotel, said it was difficult to get the balance right between having an unspoilt village and a commercially developed tourist centre. It was hard to pin the number of visitors down, but estimates range between 300,000 and one million a year, many from overseas.

On a fine day the cliff walks and beaches absorbed the tide of tourists. In bad weather John o' Groats could become a squalid tangle of traffic where the A9 seemed to plunge into the Pentland Firth.

People who have visited both extremes of Britain complained that Land's End was more commercialised and less pleasant.

Mr Macleod, reflecting on the clutter of coaches outside his hotel and people with desperate expressions seeking to use his lavatory, welcomed the resolution of the John o' Groats "visitor reception and environmental problem".

Teacher turnover is blamed on house prices

By Our Education Correspondent

High housing costs are believed to be in part responsible for a rise in the turnover of teachers in the Greater London area, disclosed in a report published yesterday.

The report contains the results of the sixth annual survey of teacher turnover in London, carried out by the Greater London committee of the Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association.

In Merton and Richmond, as many as one in four secondary school teachers resigned or retired from their posts last year. Merton's turnover rate for primary and secondary schools rose from 14 to 21 per cent.

Mr Richard Davies, acting director of education for Merton, said many young teachers could not afford to buy a house or flat within the borough.

Crewman tells of plea by woman as coaster sank

A survivor from the coaster *Pool Fisher*, which sank in the English Channel last November, told an inquest jury at Gosport, Hampshire, yesterday how the wife of another crewman said to him: "Don't leave me", as the ship went down.

Open verdicts were returned on the 13 people who died.

Mr Mark Fooker, aged 18, of Widnes, Cheshire, one of only two survivors, said the 1,100-ton ship completely keeled over in gale-force winds.

He climbed out on to the side of the vessel, where people were trying to save Mrs Doris Carvill, aged 55, wife of the ship's chief engineer, into the water.

He went towards her, looking for a life-raft. He added: "Mrs Carvill panicked. She said: 'Don't leave me, don't leave me, stay with me.'"

Mr Michael Baker, the coroner, said that a large rescue operation was launched in the rough seas when the ship sank

six miles from St Catherine's Point, Isle of Wight.

Mrs Carvill's body was one of three dragged from the sea. Ten crewmen were never found, including Mr Eric Carvill, aged 60, Mrs Carvill's husband.

The other survivor, Mr Donald Crane, aged 21, of Morston, Merseyside, said that when they left Hamburg with a cargo of potash the bow was lower in the water than usual.

He took over the steering and the ship was not handling well. At 4 am on November 6 he was roused from his bed by Mr Terence Morgan, the bosun, of Wallasey, Merseyside, who said: "Get on deck quick. The ship is going down."

He added: "Mr Fooker and I dashed up the hatchway and I found my way out into the sea. When I resurfaced I saw the rear section of the ship sticking up out of the water."

Minister says land Act to end on March 31

By Our Planning Reporter

The Community Land Act, due to be repealed when the Local Government, Planning and Land Bill becomes law, will effectively cease to operate on March 31. Mr Tom King, Minister for Local Government and Environmental Services, yesterday said agreement had been reached with local authorities to close their community land accounts on that date.

Authorities will be required to credit to such accounts the value of all holdings acquired under the Act. They will retain half of any surplus, and the other half will be redistributed to those in deficit. The Exchequer has agreed to waive any share.

With effect from August 5, councils will no longer be entitled to acquire land net of development land tax. A Government guidance note states that transactions thereafter will be at full market value, and that the tax must in future be regarded as a permanent and ordinary tax on development gains.

Funeral workers reinstated

Mr Mervyn Littlejohn and Mr Paul Burnside, two funeral workers who were dismissed after their hearse, containing a body and parked on a single yellow line outside a funeral parlour in Holway, North London, was towed away by the police, have been reinstated by their employers, the London Co-operative Society.

The police have apologized for the incident, which delayed the funeral of a woman aged 82 for almost two hours.

Film wins award

The British Film Institute Award for the most original and imaginative film at the National Film Theatre in 1979 has been won by *Sürü* (The Herd), produced and written by Yilmaz Güney, from Turkey.

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COUNTRY LIFE

WILDLIFE NUMBER



Wildlife Number

NATURE IN FOCUS

David Tomlinson examines the changing approach to wildlife photography, and the impact of modern cameras and techniques in this challenging field.

GORILLAS AT HOME

John Sparks writes about the most impressive of the great apes, the mountain gorilla, and the threats to its survival in the highlands of Central Africa.

HARBINGERS OF THE CHANGING YEAR

L. Hugh Newman discusses the behaviour of butterflies in spring, ranging from the first to emerge, the brimstone, to the localised Duke of Burgundy fritillary.

BADGER WATCH

Jonathan S. Lloyd records his observations of a Midlands' badger family, and tells how the badgers he and his wife were watching came to accept their presence.

COUNTRY LIFE

On sale now

PARLIAMENT, February 20, 1980

Contingent of British police leaving for Rhodesia this weekend

House of Lords
In a difficult situation Lord Carlington, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said when questioned after making a statement on recent developments in the Rhodesian elections. The Government was doing its best to ensure that the elections were free and fair. The situation has not changed substantially (he said) since my statement of February 13. Elections on the white vote will take place on February 14.

The Government is continuing its consultations with party leaders with the aim of securing political stability, which is making it extremely difficult for the minority of parties to campaign in certain areas.

Although there has been a disturbing number of violent incidents, the total number of casualties since ceasefire day is less than frequently occurred in a single week previously. Investigations are being pursued into a number of incidents including the bombings in Salisbury on the night of February 14.

Five hundred and forty volunteers from the police will travel to Salisbury this weekend to reinforce the supervision of polling stations. We are grateful for the splendid response from the volunteers and that the majority of them will make a material contribution to the prevention of intimidation at the polls.

Lord Carlington-Roberts for the Opposition: We strongly support the Governor in his efforts to prevent political intimidation in Rhodesia and his action in consulting the party leaders in Rhodesia for that purpose. We entirely agree that investigations into the identity of those responsible for acts of violence should be pursued with vigour.

We also greatly appreciate the action of the 540 members of our own police force in volunteering for duty at polling stations supervisors, but still feel it is even more necessary to strengthen the forces which will preserve order between now and polling day.

Lord Carlington-Lord Soames, in a difficult situation, is being unfairly criticised. (Conservative cheers) He is doing his level best to see that there are free and fair elections in Rhodesia. It is the Government's intention to give him all the aid it possibly can.

Lord Gladwyn (Lab): We should like to associate ourselves, broadly speaking, with what Lord Carlington-Roberts said. If the inquiry into the recent incident when two members of the Rhodesian police were apparently blown up opposite a church establishes that they were members of the Selous Scouts engaged in planning all about the action will the Governor be expected to take?

Lord Carlington-This is a matter for the Governor. When someone goes to Rhodesia with the powers of Government to administer a country in a lawful way, it is up to him to decide what to do.

Lord Soames (he said later) has made a particular point of seeing that the auxiliaries are monitored. He is satisfied that where they went wrong there has been punishment or dismissal.

Most of the intimidation is coming from Mr Mugabe's forces which have not been able to do that. That is where the intimidation is largely coming from, although all parties have to some extent been guilty.

It is extremely difficult to know what to do about intimidation. I am satisfied that Lord Soames has the information. What he is seeking to do, either by ordinance or by speaking to the leaders of the political parties before the election which is only a week ahead, is to do all he can within the limits of his power to do away with that intimidation.

Mr Ian Gilmour, Lord Privy Seal (Cons and American C): I am satisfied that Lord Carlington's statement is the correct one.

Mr Peter Shore, chief Opposition spokesman on foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Conservative C): I am sure that the Government will do everything in its power to ensure that the elections are free and fair. I express my growing anxiety that the Government should not be tempted to reinforce confidence in Rhodesia and outside its own capacity to judge on effective and even-handed administration in the closing phases of the election campaign.

It is clear that threats to the ceasefire and election process are from many sources. I urge the Government not to take any measures that will excite the already strong suspicion of partiality, to ensure that the election is free and fair. I urge the Government to take any measures that will excite the already strong suspicion of partiality, to ensure that the election is free and fair.

Does this not represent some kind of a concession to the holding of free and fair elections? Sir Ian Gilmour-It is in the nature of things impossible to give an exact estimate of the number of

Patriotic Front guerrillas who have not assembled, but certainly the figures given by him in relation to Zulu are unlikely to be wide of the mark.

There is as he knows a considerable counter between what has gone on in the east of the country and what has gone on in the west. The same sort of thing has not happened in the west.

There is a large number of guerrillas who have not assembled in the eastern part of the country. The House should realise that every single other party other than the Patriotic Front has produced considerable evidence of its readiness to do so.

Mr Norman Buchan (West, Renfrewshire, Lab): He asked for an even-handed approach. There is anxiety internationally and here which is caused by the lack of even-handedness we have got. (Conservative cheers) "Shocking" and "Disgraceful". Has he forgotten the Lancaster House agreement? How does he square that with the running free of the rebel forces, the Selous Scouts, the auxiliaries and the security forces?

Sir Ian Gilmour-The Lancaster House agreement has not been broken. The agreement said that if all the Patriotic Front forces were assembled, then the Government would have agreed to deploy its security forces. Unfortunately that has not happened. There has been a need to deploy some of the

Minister gets report on scheme for one track Channel tunnel

House of Commons
Mr Norman Fowler, Minister of Transport, said on Tuesday that he had received Sir Alec Cairncross's initial impression of the Channel Tunnel project. He said that the project was a sound investment, particularly as it was available both from the Government and from the private sector.

Further work is in hand (he added) and I will make a statement as soon as possible.

Mr Philip Whitehead (Derby, North, Lab): A single track Channel Tunnel would be a sound investment, particularly as it is available both from the Government and from the private sector.

Will the minister make a statement at the next transport question time? We do not want "Waiting for Godot".

Mr Fowler (Sutton Coldfield, C): We have asked Professor Cairncross to have a continuing look at whether the project, as at present conceived, is financially viable. I will say what he will do, and I would like to wait his advice on it.

Mr Ronald Lewis (Cardiff, Lab): The Channel Tunnel would be a great morale boost to a quarter of a million railwaymen and women. It would be a great boost to the export effort and to tourism.

Mr Fowler-There are great advantages to a Channel Tunnel. What is most important however is that we get the right Channel Tunnel. We have asked Sir Alec Cairncross to give us his initial impression of the project. He has said that the project is a sound investment, particularly as it is available both from the Government and from the private sector.

Mr Fowler-This is one of the things we will continue to do. I hope in my statement to give the maximum advice to the House. I hope that the House will be able to make its own conclusions.

Mr Tam Dalyell (West Lothian, Lab): Has the minister been asked to consider the Channel Tunnel project, the future rail projects did not include the Channel Tunnel. Has the minister been asked to consider the Channel Tunnel project, the future rail projects did not include the Channel Tunnel.

Mr Fowler-We are looking at the Channel Tunnel project. We are looking at the Channel Tunnel project. We are looking at the Channel Tunnel project.

Critical look to be taken at UK's multilateral aid programmes

The Government felt it right to present to give a critical review to political, industrial and commercial considerations in the allocation of overseas aid. Lord Carlington, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said when questioned after making a statement on recent developments in the Rhodesian elections. The Government was doing its best to ensure that the elections were free and fair. The situation has not changed substantially (he said) since my statement of February 13. Elections on the white vote will take place on February 14.

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Lord Carlington-This is a matter for the Governor. When someone goes to Rhodesia with the powers of Government to administer a country in a lawful way, it is up to him to decide what to do.

Lord Soames (he said later) has made a particular point of seeing that the auxiliaries are monitored. He is satisfied that where they went wrong there has been punishment or dismissal.

Mr Walker pressing for restraint in EEC farm prices

Because Britain was the biggest beneficiary of the subsidies of the European Community she had a special concern to see that the cost of the common agricultural policy was kept as low as possible.

Mr Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said in a speech to the House of Commons on Tuesday that he was pressing for restraint in EEC farm prices.

He said that he had emphasized this point to his colleagues although several member states had argued that the Commission's proposals to cut maximum prices by 10 per cent were too modest.

I pointed out that the Commission's own proposals would produce a relatively small overall saving of the estimated budgetary cost of the CAP, and that this was not achieved by the raising of subsidies. I also pointed out that the proposed increase in milk prices would be a major problem for consumers.

Lord Carlington-We really must cut the money we give to overseas countries according to our resources. We must put our economy in order before we can increase our aid programme and help the developing countries.

Lord Gladwyn (Lab) associated himself with the Minister's statement. He said that the Government's aid programme was a valuable asset to the world economy and that it was important to ensure that it was managed effectively and economically.

Lord Carlington-We need to maintain the strength of our ties with the Commonwealth to which the greater

Moves to involve private capital in BR hotels and property and in Sealink

Mr Norman Fowler, Minister of Transport, said on Tuesday that he was considering moves to involve private capital in British Railways (BR) hotels and property and in Sealink.

He said that the Government was looking at the possibility of setting up a holding company to manage the hotels and property of BR.

At his request the board had been asked to examine the possibility of setting up a holding company to manage the hotels and property of BR.

Mr Peter Viggers (Gosport, C) had asked the Minister whether he was considering the possibility of setting up a holding company to manage the hotels and property of BR.

Mr Fowler-There is a possibility of setting up a holding company to manage the hotels and property of BR. We are looking at the possibility of setting up a holding company to manage the hotels and property of BR.

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Mr Fowler-There is a possibility of setting up a holding company to manage the hotels and property of BR. We are looking at the possibility of setting up a holding company to manage the hotels and property of BR.

No simple answer to motorway spray

No design solution had yet been found to reduce the danger of motorway spray, a Minister of Transport said on Tuesday.

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Parliamentary notices

House of Commons
Today at 2.30: Debate on aircrew policy.
House of Lords
Today at 3: Protection of Trading Interests Bill, report.



Peter Egan in the BBC series 'Prince Regent'

Arsenic & old lace started me off

Something worse is finishing others off

"My acting career really started with 'Arsenic and Old Lace'. It was a happy beginning. But I want to ask you to think about unhappy endings—not to plays but to lives. The lives of our old people who when husband or wife dies are left to eke out months and years of awful loneliness.

"It's the worst disease there is", said one of them. It ruins health and the happiness that should be theirs. Slow death by hunger is the other, and it too is endured by thousands overseas; too old to help themselves, and with no welfare state to give a hand.

Fortunately there are people willing to give help both in Britain and elsewhere. Volunteers who give dedicated help—if you and I will give them the resources. I'm sure you sympathise. Now please do something."

£5 is a real help towards another Day Centre. £30 helps provide a Geriatric Day Hospital. £150 inscribes the name of someone dear to you on the Dedication Plaque of the Day Centre it helps.

Please send your generous gift to: Hon. Treasurer, The Rt. Hon. Lord Maybray-King, Help the Aged, Room T5, FREEPOST 30, London, W1E 7JZ. (No stamp needed).

* Please let us know if you would like your gift used for a particular purpose.

Calder Hall could be operational into 1990s

Assuming that the nuclear power station at Calder Hall, Cumbria, continued to be a reliable supplier of electricity and its continued operation was approved by the Health and Safety Commission, the power station's operational life could extend beyond 1990, the Earl of Gowrie, Minister of State for Employment, said.

Lord Byron had asked when the Government expected Calder Hall to be commissioned in 1995, to reach the end of its useful life and what steps would then be taken to make it safe for long periods during which it would remain radioactive.

The Earl of Gowrie-De-commissioning would begin with the removal of the nuclear fuel rods which contain the highly radioactive fission products, for re-processing. Surveillance and safety requirements for the station would be maintained, including any relatively small amounts of radioactivity, would be maintained at a low level.

How long it would be before these were removed would depend on the balance between removal costs and the cost of the residual radioactivity decay, and the value of the site for other uses.

Hope of agreement soon for French firm to take over Marathon yard

Some 60,000 to 70,000 jobs in Scotland are at risk as a result of North Sea activity and the Government has taken measures to safeguard increased employment in Scotland, the Secretary of State for Scotland said on Tuesday.

Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Scotland, said that the Government was looking at the possibility of setting up a holding company to manage the hotels and property of BR.

At his request the board had been asked to examine the possibility of setting up a holding company to manage the hotels and property of BR.

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Mr Younger-There is a possibility of setting up a holding company to manage the hotels and property of BR. We are looking at the possibility of setting up a holding company to manage the hotels and property of BR.

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Mr Younger-There is a possibility of setting up a holding company to manage the hotels and property of BR. We are looking at the possibility of setting up a holding company to manage the hotels and property of BR.

Resources shifted from new roads to maintenance

It is because we are not falling short on our plans, as the previous Government always did.

Mr Peter Hain, Minister of Transport, said on Tuesday that the Government was looking at the possibility of setting up a holding company to manage the hotels and property of BR.

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Mr Viggers-There is a possibility of setting up a holding company to manage the hotels and property of BR. We are looking at the possibility of setting up a holding company to manage the hotels and property of BR.

Mr Hain-There is a possibility of setting up a holding company to manage the hotels and property of BR. We are looking at the possibility of setting up a holding company to manage the hotels and property of BR.

Settlement cannot be imposed on Cyprus

Lord Spens, opening a debate on the political and economic situation in Cyprus, said that the British Government was unable to impose a settlement on Cyprus.

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Lord Spens-There is a possibility of setting up a holding company to manage the hotels and property of BR. We are looking at the possibility of setting up a holding company to manage the hotels and property of BR.

Correction

The European constituency of Mr John Taylor (ED) who spoke in the European Parliament on Tuesday 19 February 1980 in the Midlands East. Mr John Taylor is a member of the House of Commons.

Review of cases called
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HOME NEWS

Review of suspected child-abuse cases called for in report on girl killed by drug-taking mother

From Arthur Osman

The report of an independent inquiry into the death of a year-old girl at the hands of her mother said yesterday: "The tragedy was allowed to occur without anyone ever doing anything effective to prevent it."

It said there was a need to review procedures in Leicestershire for cases of suspected, or actual, child abuse; some guidance documents for professional workers were "woolly and verbose"; existing literature needed radical revision; all professional workers should undertake training on how to deal with such cases.

The child, Carly Taylor, was a twin and died in July 1978. Her injuries included a fractured skull. Her mother, Mrs Shirley Taylor, now aged 28, was sentenced to five years' imprisonment last July for manslaughter and ill-treatment of the child.

The inquiry, under the chairmanship of Mr Richard Milham, former Clerk of Buckinghamshire County Council, said both the mother and father appear to have been on drugs most of the material time and the home conditions varied from poor to squalid. Her mother was refused to have a violent temper; from time to time, and particularly in the closing months of Carly's life, relatives, friends and others expressed concern about her condition.

and spoke of having seen

"The social worker, health visitor and probation officer principally involved, however, did not in the main recognize signs of child abuse or neglect... did not act as the circumstances demanded and were not convinced that she was in any immediate danger, although both twins were placed on the local register of children at risk very shortly before Carly's death."

Discussing the damp, cold-water flat where the family lived, described as a "drug square", the report said that a health visitor had told the inquiry that "merely because people sleep on mattresses on the floor she did not regard this as unsuitable in the circles in which the Taylors moved. We also asked her about the drug aspect and again, to our surprise, she said she had never seen any sign of drugs but added that she had never known anyone in contact with people who were misusing drugs."

The twins were discharged from hospital to this flat and "there was known to a number of people, but not wholly to any one of them, a collection of factors which made it at least questionable whether the twins should have been discharged home at that stage."

The husband was remained in custody after the inquiry and a senior social worker became involved. "It is incomprehensible to us that he did

not then immediately set in train the calling of a case conference and possibly the entry of the twins' names on the non-accidental injury register (which, incidentally, he had checked himself), as the indications that these twins were at risk of child abuse were strong."

Shortly before the twins' first birthday, the social worker was advised by his assistant director that there were indications of potential child abuse and that the case should be on the register. He did nothing about it, however, for 13 days; two weeks later the child was dead.

In the latter period a neighbour had also reported what she called battering, with Carly being made a scapegoat. The twins were found to be filthy, hungry and crawling around in vests, with the mother in a "strange mood".

The report said about the documents on procedure: "We frankly regard some of the documents as being verbose and woolly. We felt that it would be extremely difficult for any worker in the field, faced with a case of suspected non-accidental injury for the first time, to decide quickly from any of these documents what he or she should do."

Leicestershire County Council and the Area Health Authority (Teaching), which jointly commissioned the inquiry, said the procedures had been reviewed internally since the child's death, and this would continue after the inquiry's recommendations.



Stolen paintings, antique silver and furniture worth £200,000, seized by Scotland Yard's Flying Squad, on show yesterday at a police store in north London. The owners could live anywhere in Britain, the police said. With the stolen property is PC Neil Weir.

Teacher in fear of Ripper loses self-defence plea

From Our Correspondent

Bradford

A Bradford schoolteacher lost her fight at Bradford Crown Court yesterday to establish that women who feared attack by the Yorkshire Ripper could carry a knife for self-defence.

A jury of eight men and four women unanimously decided that the night that Sarah Dixon, aged 27, was arrested with a

small sheath knife in her pocket she was carrying an offensive weapon without lawful authority or reasonable excuse.

Miss Dixon, of Newburn Road, Bradford, an address described in court as streets away from the scene of the latest Ripper murder, was given a three-month prison sentence, suspended for a year. She was also ordered to pay £75 towards her legal aid.

Mr John Henham, the recorder, told her: "Had you threatened anyone or exposed this knife at any time I would have sent you straight to prison."

Mr David Gipton, for the prosecution, said that Miss Dixon was arrested by officers who were policing a National Front meeting in Bradford on April 30 last year. She told the policemen who arrested her:

"I always carry it. It is for protection."

He said the prosecution contended that an offensive weapon could be lawfully carried for self-defence only if there was an imminent threat of violence.

Miss Dixon, who pleaded not guilty, said in evidence: "I carried it because I was worried about the Ripper attacks in this area. I did not carry it for any other reason."

Scatter my ashes in goal, student wrote

From Our Correspondent

Nottingham

A Notts County supporter wrote to the club saying that he was going to commit suicide and asking that his ashes should be scattered in the goalmouth.

The club secretary called the police. But Iain Cameron, aged 19, a Manchester University student, of Cornwell Road, Arnold, Nottingham, had been killed by a train at Levenshulme, Manchester.

It happened on Monday after he disappeared from his university home at Hulme Hall, Oxford Place, Manchester.

The letter said: "In a few days time this club should be approached by my parents with a request for my ashes to be scattered in the goalmouth at Meadow Lane. This is one of my last wishes before I commit suicide."

"I have been a Notts County supporter for more than nine years and a season ticket holder for the last five seasons. So I feel that this request is fully justified and I would be extremely grateful if the management of the club would grant it."

A club official said: "We have no objection to carrying out this request if asked to do so by the family."

Neighbours said Mr Cameron's family intended to comply with the request. One neighbour said: "Iain was a clever boy with a bright future."

An inquest is to be held in Manchester.

Mr Scott quits his cottage

Mr Norman Scott, the chief prosecution witness in the "Thorpe" trial, has changed his mind and quit the remote cottage on Dartmoor as he was ordered to by a court.

The cottage at Chagford was deserted yesterday, 24 hours after he said he would stay there for at least another week. He was given until midnight on Tuesday to leave after a judge at Exeter County Court heard that he had persistently fallen behind with his rent.

Mr Scott, aged 39, a former male model, shouted through the door to callers on Tuesday: "I'll be here for a week or two yet."

Yesterday, the only sign of life around the empty cottage and stable was a chicken.

Mrs Audrey Leslie, his landlady, said from her home in the Isle of Wight: "We have not any personal grudge against the man. It is just that we cannot afford to have him there and he cannot afford to be there."

"Mr Scott tells me he is going to be living with friends in the locality for a couple of months."

Refugee boy wins public school place

From Our Correspondent

Colchester

A Vietnamese refugee aged 11 has won a scholarship to an English public school.

Richard Chau could hardly speak a word of English when he fled Vietnam with the "boat people" 18 months ago. After only 12 months at a British primary school, he has won the Archbishop Harnett Scholarship to Chigwell School in Essex.

Richard still faces another hurdle before he can take his place at the 350-year-old public school in September. The scholarship covers only tuition, and Richard's parents, who live at Haverbridge, near Maldon, Essex, cannot afford the £1,000 a year boarding fees.

Mr Roger Fincham, head of Haverbridge primary school, said yesterday: "We are desperately hoping someone will come up with the money to send Richard to Chigwell."

"He is a very bright little boy, who has worked extremely hard to win this chance. It will be a tragedy if he cannot take advantage of the scholarship."

Accidental death verdict on Lebanese terrorist

An Arab terrorist may have been holding the bomb that killed him in his London hotel room on January 17, an inquest heard yesterday.

The man, whose identity has not been confirmed, was staying at the Mount Royal Hotel, Bryanston Street, in central London.

Dr Michael Crompton, pathologist, said: "Everything indicated that this bomb went off close to the front of his body and he may well have been holding it."

Mr Paul Knapman, deputy coroner for Westminster, re-

cording a verdict of accidental death, said: "I cannot say that I feel a little sense of remorse at his death."

He had been told by Det Supt Bernard Hodgkins, of Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist squad, that the man registered with Mohamed Solmani, but a Beirut newspaper named him as a Lebanese preparing bombs for Israeli targets.

Mr Hodgkins said there was cause to believe that he was engaged in terrorist activities. A second bomb exploded 43 hours after the blast in room 556.

10-year ban on drunk skipper of grounded ship

From Our Correspondent

Great Yarmouth

The master of a rig stand-by ship who was drunk when the vessel ran aground on a sandbank off the Norfolk coast, had his skipper's certificate of competency suspended for 10 years at a Department of Trade inquiry at Great Yarmouth yesterday.

John William Raven, aged 38, of Grimsby, was found guilty of misconduct and drunkenness in the 11 charges brought against him.

Mr Dennis Roberts, Home Office nautical assessor, said the inquiry was satisfied that at the time of the grounding of the Lowestoft vessel, Willa, Raven had collapsed in a drunken slumber in his cabin, leaving the bridge unmanned.

Mr Roberts emphasized that the blame did not lie entirely with the skipper.

Seaman jailed for stealing \$2½m in notes

A bank was forced to re-design part of its currency after a German seaman stole \$2.5m, Mr Roy Amlot, for the prosecution, said at the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

Heinz Graul, aged 29, was serving in the German ship Pellissier at Millwall Dock, London, in August, 1978, when he took on 40 cases of freshly minted \$50 notes belonging to the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago.

The notes had been printed in Surrey, and were bound for the bank in Port of Spain, Trinidad, counsel added. "The sterling value of each case which contained \$2.5m was about £600,000," he said.

Herr Graul, who admitted stealing a case of the money after it was loaded and hiding it in his cabin, was jailed for three years by Judge McKinnon, QC.

Criticism of a hot potato by Sainsbury vindicated

By Robin Young

Consumer Affairs

Correspondent

The Advertising Standards Authority has vindicated a claim by J. Sainsbury Ltd that the most widely grown variety of potato in Britain, the grey and land Crown, turns grey and crumbly when boiled, goes soggy when mashed, and makes very poor chips.

Sainsbury, which does not sell Pentland Crown, produced independent tests to substantiate their criticism of the variety, which was rated ninth of 11 varieties tested.

The Advertising Standards Authority's report of cases

investigated last December shows two complaints upheld against special-offer advertisements by The Observer newspaper, and one against Selective Marketplace, a subsidiary of Times Newspapers Ltd.

The Observer was criticized for quoting a higher price for a book as its "shop price" when it was available in bookshops at what the advertisement called the newspaper's "special price", and for advertising as Guernsey sweaters garments that were manufactured in Leicester.

Selective Marketplace was criticized for misdescribing cashmere sweaters.

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ROVER 3500	36.3mpg	27.9mpg



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*Complete Government Fuel Consumption Figures: Rover 5-speed manuals: 2300: urban motoring 17.5mpg (16.1 litres/100km); constant 56mph (90km/h) 36.8mpg (24.4 litres/100km); constant 75mph (120km/h) 31.0mpg (29.1 litres/100km). 2600: urban motoring 18.5mpg (15.3 litres/100km); constant 56mph (90km/h) 38.2mpg (23.4 litres/100km); constant 75mph (120km/h) 30.2mpg (29.4 litres/100km). 3500: urban motoring 16.2mpg (17.4 litres/100km); constant 56mph (90km/h) 36.3mpg (27.9 litres/100km); constant 75mph (120km/h) 27.9mpg (32.1 litres/100km). 5-speed gearbox optional on the 2300. Car shown features optional alloy wheels.

HOME NEWS

Border security deal will be continued, Mr Haughey tells Dail

From Our Correspondent Dublin

Mr Charles Haughey, the Irish Prime Minister, told the Dail in Dublin yesterday that the secret security arrangements agreed between Mrs Thatcher and his predecessor, Mr Jack Lynch, after the murder of Lord Mountbatten last August, would not be changed.

Questioned about his speech to the Fianna Fail annual conference on Saturday, Mr Haughey said that no plans had been made for the two governments in Dublin and London to hold talks on Northern Ireland.

He expected, however, to meet Mrs Thatcher in Brussels at an EEC summit next month and expected there would shortly be a meeting in London

between Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, Mr Brian Lenihan, the Irish Foreign Minister, and Mr Humphrey Atkins, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

Mr Haughey told the Dail that a copy of his speech had been sent to Mrs Thatcher. His government would also continue its international pressure in support of talks by sending the text of the speech to its embassies and instructing Irish representatives to promote Irish government policy.

Although he repeated that the first priority of his Government was to deal with the question of Northern Ireland, Mr Haughey did not display any hawkish sentiments yesterday despite Opposition attempts to persuade him into calling for British withdrawal from the north.

Peace People man is given back his job

From Annabel Ferriman Belfast

Divisions within the Peace People, the movement that sprang into being in 1976 after the death of three children on a Belfast street, became more apparent yesterday with the statement that the Peace People Company is to retain the services of Mr Peter McLachlan, the movement's projects officer.

The Peace People's 12-man executive dismissed Mr McLachlan as its chairman and projects manager 10 days ago and later issued a statement that it did not have the money to pay his £8,000-a-year salary.

But the Peace People Company, which was set up in 1977 with responsibility for a large part of the movement's finance, said yesterday that as it was responsible for appointing and paying Mr McLachlan it would decide his future.

The company's nine directors, of which three are members of the Peace People's executive, said that there were genuine difficulties of judgment as to the future of the company's projects officer. The company intended to meet and discuss the matter with the executive as soon as possible.

Prayer for peace: Cardinal Tomás O Fiaich, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, will preach at a service of prayer for peace in Northern Ireland at Westminster Cathedral on Sunday, March 15 (the Press Association reports). It will be his first public engagement in England.

Cardinal Basil Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, will lead the service, which will be attended by church leaders of other denominations.



Mr Fox leaving a multi-terrain vehicle during his inspection tour of the Isle of Wight.

Aeolian Sky cleared over 13 lethal canisters

From Frances Gibb Yarmouth, Isle of Wight

Thirteen canisters of lethal arsenic trichloride washed ashore on south-coast beaches did not come from the sunken Greek freighter Aeolian Sky, it was confirmed yesterday.

At the time the 15,000-ton ship sank 12 miles east of Portland Bill on November 4, the canisters were on the shelf of a German company, Merck of Darmstadt, and did not leave there until November 28, judging by their serial numbers.

The official confirmation of what has always been maintained by the P & O Steamship Company, which chartered the Aeolian Sky, came from the German company on the day that Mr Marcus Fox, Under Secretary of State at the Department of the Environment, was visiting the Isle of Wight to

assess the danger of the sunken ship's cargo. One theory is that the 13 canisters were swept off one of the 400 cargo ships using the English Channel each week.

The news will provide some comfort to the islanders, who told the minister that fears about the cargo were threatening their tourist trade, which brings in £100m a year, and Europe's oyster trade.

At a meeting of more than 30 officials from Hampshire and Dorset County Councils, and from every maritime local authority from the Devon border to the Sussex coast, Major A. J. Parker, chief fisheries officer of the Southern Sea Fisheries District, said that the island was the breeding ground for the whole of Europe's oysters. The industry could not afford to be killed by pointless rumours.

Since the Aeolian Sky sank 1,066 canisters have been swept ashore, including the arsenic trichloride, 120 aerosols of footrot spray, 210 of disinfectants, 21 of insect oil and various other chemicals, the bulk of which were made by ICI and loaded on to the ship at Hull.

The ship is also known to have been carrying various chemicals such as nitric and sulphuric acid and arsenic trioxide. So far the daily operation of clearing the canisters from the island's beaches has cost an estimated £25,000 or £3,000 a week.

Six teachers have volunteered to leave their schools and work 13 hours a day for £5 an hour identifying chemicals from the canisters in their school laboratories. Wearing safety suits as protection against splashes they have joined teams of firemen wearing air-

WEST EUROPE

France trumpets solar plan but whispers about nuclear projects

From Ian Murray Paris, Feb 20

Scarcely a day goes by without France announcing yet another move towards ending its dependence on oil energy. Yesterday came the optimistic report of the two-year-old Solar Energy Commission today the controversial authorisation has been given to start two nuclear reactors at Gravelines in the north and Tricastin in the Drôme.

The solar energy report was presented by a suitably beaming M. Henry Durand, the commission president, who announced proudly that France was the second world power when it came to sun power and that it intended to stay this way.

Between now and the end of the century the solar energy industry in France is supposed to create 80,000 jobs and to produce enough power to end the need for 15 million tonnes of imported oil. In that time the plan is that one French home in four will be solar heated, while in 1980 the commission's Frs400m (£44m) budget will enable army barracks to start being heated and the number of solar water heaters in the country to double to 40,000.

The decision to press ahead with the two nuclear reactors was not announced at a joyful press conference, but in a short note from M. Girard, the Minister for Industry. While the French Government is proud of its nuclear programme, strong environmental lobbies force it to be rather quiet in talking about the subject.

This is particularly the case

with the two reactors now being changed because both developed cracks in the course of construction, which caused vociferous concern to be expressed by the environmentalists as well as the providing union action against the projects. Equipment to monitor the cracks has been installed beneath the cladding.

Though France is well positioned to become a major power in the south of the country, the northern areas cannot do so and the chief substitute for oil-produced energy in Government planning is nuclear. President Mitterrand's aim is to have 60 per cent of France's electricity generated by nuclear power.

At the same time the Government realises that nuclear power is generally unpopular, which is why consumers living in the vicinity of these power stations are to get a 15 per cent reduction in their tariffs.

Some ecologists argue that this proves the Government knows that its nuclear stations are dangerous. Support for this idea might seem to come from a circular soon to be sent to the neighbours of the nuclear station at Fessenheim in Haut Rhin, telling them what to do in the event of a leak.

This says that if the leak is a minor one people should stay home and keep in their animals until the all-clear is given.

If the leak is more serious people are to get a plastic bag for each member of the family and fill it with their necessary clothes and papers. Buses will then be sent to collect them, take them to a decontamination centre and then on to a holiday camp.

Strasbourg police officers charged with assault

From Our Own Correspondent Paris, Feb 20

A police superintendent, six inspectors and a customs officer in Strasbourg have been charged with beating four prisoners being held for drug offences last October.

The charges are the result of an inquiry by Mme Jacqueline Boulange, an examining magistrate brought in from Nancy.

The four prisoners, all North Africans, had been arrested in a Strasbourg café following a tip-off to police. Interrogated separately during the night they had all been charged with trafficking in drugs and 35 grammes of heroin, or 50,000 francs (about £5,500) on the black market, as said to have been found in their possession.

To cap the last three of the men lodged a complaint through their lawyers alleging that they had been beaten with rulers and truncheons after being tied naked to the central

heating pipes. One of the three alleged a truncheon had been pushed up his anus.

A medical examination which had been made two days after their arrest showed up marks of a beating on their bodies, although a further inspection made after the complaint was lodged revealed nothing.

The complainants, who have all now been released, also allege that a police doctor ignored their injuries after their arrest and signed a certificate saying they were in a fit state to remain in prison.

The affair has further soured relations between the police and public in Strasbourg, where organisations in the past have made a number of allegations against the city's force.

Two officials of the European Parliament have now written to Mme Simone Veil, President of the Parliament, asking to be reassured about police behaviour in the city.

Experiments showed influence of Ulster broadcasts on children TV blamed as a main source of learning about violence

By Peter Brock

Children living in a small town in Northern Ireland, free from the violence associated with the media image of Ulster, appear to be far from innocent of that image. Recent psychological research implicates television as a main source of learning about the violence.

Dr Edward Cairns, of the New University of Ulster at Coleraine, co Londonderry, carried out a pilot study in which he compared 20 children aged between five and six in a virtually trouble-free area of Northern Ireland with 20 children from a south London suburb.

They were all asked to respond to line-drawings of

ambiguous scenes such as a derelict house, and account was made of the number of children mentioning either "bomb" or "explosion". Four of the London children used the words, but only one in connection with terrorists, while 18 of the Irish children used them.

Dr Cairns and his colleagues set up a larger-scale experiment to discover whether the children had obtained their information from television or adult conversation.

Before doing so, researchers noted how many times the words "bomb" or "explosion" were mentioned on BBC national news in the early evening and on the BBC's regional news for Ulster.

The second experiment involved 52 children aged between five and eight in a small town 60 miles north of Belfast (who were exposed to adult conversations and Ulster media), 55 children on an island off the Scottish west coast, who received Northern Irish television, 38 in a small town on the western Scottish mainland who also received Ulster programmes and a further 48 in a Glasgow suburb.

They were shown the drawings, and the older children were asked to write an essay entitled "Here is the News" with the emphasis on television. A count of how many children used the words "bomb" and "explosion" showed that

nearly 70 per cent of the older Irish children used the words, as did 35 to 45 per cent of the Scots receiving Northern Irish television.

The Scots receiving the service wrote about bombs in relation to Belfast. One wrote: "A bomb has just gone off (sic) in Belfast, and that is the end of the news".

In the current issue of the *British Journal of Social and Clinical Psychology*, Dr Cairns writes that the evidence "appears to confirm the conclusion reached by other investigators—that television news can distort perceptions of reality—and to extend this finding to children as young as five years".

Nuclear-waste policy 'not relevant to test drilling'

From Our Correspondent Ayr

When Mr Malcolm Morison, QC, began to put the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority's case at the resumed Loch Doon public inquiry in Ayr yesterday, he told Mr William Campbell, the reporter, that the planning application for permission to drill boreholes near the loch, which had been rejected by Kyle and Carrick District Council, had to be taken in relation to government policy.

The proper forum for debate on government policy was not in a local planning inquiry but in Parliament, he said. In the authority's view questions relating to the possibility of nuclear waste disposal near Loch Doon had no bearing on the application for permission to erect up to six temporary buildings or caravans and to drill test bores. That was not an issue that should be raised by the inquiry.

Mr Morison expressed surprise that the Kyle and Carrick and the Cumnock and Doon Valley district councils should, on the opening day of the inquiry, have reserved their position on the legality of restrictions said to have been imposed on the scope of the inquiry.

Neither the Scottish Office nor the Reporter had imposed any restriction, he said. All that had been done was to emphasize the limits of the application. The authority's first witness was Dr Byron Lintern, a geologist, who was senior officer in charge of drilling operations carried out by the authority at Altnabreac, Caithness.

He said the proposed drilling programme at Loch Doon would be similar to that at Caithness. It would involve two drilling rigs working in shifts round the clock, and drilling to maximum depths of 500 metres.

Contractors would have about 10 people on site at all times. Dr Lintern gave a commentary while a film of the drilling operation at Altnabreac was shown to the inquiry.

"Two lakes" inquiry: British Nuclear Fuels Ltd yesterday gave details of seven potential water supplies they had examined with a view to meeting future demands at the Windscale nuclear plant (Our Whitehaven Correspondent writes).

They put forward the conclusion that only two of the sources, Wa Water or Ennerdale Water, could provide the quantity of water needed.

Giving evidence on the twenty-second day of the "two lakes" inquiry in Whitehaven, Mr Thomas Doddington, a BNF business engineer, said they had considered taking water supplies from a variety of sources.

Apart from Ennerdale and Wa Water they had considered the rivers Derwent, Calder and Bleng, the sea and ground water. But after examining the geology and engineering features of the sources they had concluded that most of the other choices were unacceptable and did not have any advantages over Ennerdale or Wa Water.

The inquiry continues.

Rock group lead singer dies

Bon Scott, lead singer of AC/DC rock group, was found dead in a car in south London on Tuesday night, police said yesterday. He was discovered by a friend.

Mr Scott, aged 30, was born in Scotland but brought up in Australia, where the five-man group was formed.

Roman Catholics start offshore insurance

By Our Religious Affairs Correspondent

The Roman Catholic Church in Britain has ventured into offshore finance by choosing Guernsey as the base for a new church insurance company because of the less restrictive laws there on insurance matters. The British Treasury has

granted permission for the move and the States of Guernsey has also agreed.

A mutual insurance company has been set up, which will be wholly owned by the participating dioceses and religious orders in England, Wales, and Scotland. Many thousands of buildings owned by various bodies in the

Roman Catholic Church will be covered, at what are said to be substantial savings in premiums. The premium income of the company is expected to be about £1m.

The existing insurance service for Roman Catholic buildings is conducted through the Catholic National Insurance Trust Ltd, which is being wound up.

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Wolverhampton theatre closing after 86 years

From Our Correspondent Wolverhampton

The final curtain will fall at the 86-year-old Grand Theatre at Wolverhampton on Sunday, March 3. It is closing because the local authority has decided not to renew an annual grant of £34,000.

Mr Humphrey Stanbury, the theatre's managing director, said yesterday: "This is a great tragedy. We have been greatly underfunded and we cannot go on. This was a community theatre in the fullest sense."

A liquidator will be appointed on April 1 for Staffordshire's last surviving traditional theatre, some of whose 20 regular staff have worked there more than 40 years. The theatre costs £100,000 a year to run.

At the same time the association has been ordered by the Civil Aviation Authority to tighten safety rules at its centres.

Since Mr Broad fell into the sea and drowned on New Year's Day there have been two further accidents at the parachute

£125,000 ITV grant to film institute

By a Staff Reporter

The British Film Institute is receiving a grant of £125,000 from the independent television companies this year, more than double the grant from the companies for 1978-79.

Previously the grants from the companies have been used for the preservation of independent television programmes in the National Film Archive, but the increase will provide extra funds for the film institute's production board, enabling it to facilitate the development of innovative and experimental programming for television.

Other money from the grant will be used to expand the institute's television information services.

Parachute club examiner's rating is suspended

From Our Correspondent Colchester

The head of a sky-diving club at Clacton-on-Sea, Essex, has had his examiner's rating suspended after the death of a parachutist.

Mr Pat Slattery's rating has been suspended because the Parachute Association after an inquiry into the death of Mr Herbert Broad, aged 62, an engineer.

At the same time the association has been ordered by the Civil Aviation Authority to tighten safety rules at its centres. Since Mr Broad fell into the sea and drowned on New Year's Day there have been two further accidents at the parachute

centre. A member, aged 25, crashed through a garden shed and a Dutchman, aged 28, hit a moving van and broke both legs on his first jump.

Mr Slattery, aged 41, the chief instructor, blamed a "run of bad luck" for the three accidents which happened since the club moved to Clacton air-strip from Ipswich, Suffolk, two months ago.

He said the centre had acquired five jackets and a rescue boat since Mr Broad died. "The suspension of my examiner's rating simply means that I will not be able to examine instructors for a while. It does not prevent me teaching new pupils, and it will not affect the running of the club," he said.

Police hold 41 in Sardinian drive against kidnappers

From Our Own Correspondent Rome, Feb 20

Police have arrested 41 people and are looking for 12 others in an attempt to bring up a gang of Sardinian criminals allegedly responsible for seven kidnappings and three attempted kidnappings which brought the total of £15m in ransoms.

These kidnappings were carried out between June 1978 and August 1979, and include the seizure of the Sicilian family from London on August 21 of last year.

Apart from the arrests, several hundred searches have been carried out and records of interrogations now fill thousands of pages.

The arrests are said to have been based on the confessions of six people accused in the Cuna family kidnapping, which took place the day after the disappearance of the Schild family in Sardinia.

The list of arrests is being taken as an indication of Sardinia's new type of kidnapper. It was clear that an organization as efficient as this was a long way from the traditional type of Sardinian bandit.

They are seen to have adopted methods typical of an industrial society, rather than the old rural background of banditry, in their choice of victims and the re-cycling of marked ransom money.

Most of those charged with or suspected of having had a hand in these kidnappings are said to have regular work. They include businessmen, an accountant, skilled workers, mechanics employed by a public service, private security men, employees of transport businesses and farmers.

The farmers belong to the rural world but those under suspicion graze their own herds and cannot be regarded as poor.

WEST EUROPE

Compromise with doctors sought
French health system
threatened by costs

In Charles Hargrove, Feb 20

France has for the past 30 years prided itself on the fact that whereas Britain suffered a "socialized medicine" which succeeded in working a system of medicine a la carte, which achieved a compromise between the interests of all Frenchmen and the liberal exercise of their profession by physicians, this delicate balance is threatened by soaring health costs. They are estimated to be at a rate of 20 per cent per year, and the cumulative cost of the health service is at 25,000m francs (£2,770m) in 1979, a substantial increase on the 1978 figure of 22,000m francs (£2,440m).

The Government is determined to cut it down, and to do so it has introduced a series of measures to reduce the cost of the health service, which, between 1975 and 1978 has risen an average 13.9 per cent. The measures include a reduction in the number of hospital beds, a reduction in the number of doctors, and a reduction in the number of consultants. The Government is also determined to cut the cost of the health service by reducing the number of consultants. The number of consultants has risen from 1975 to 1978 by 13.9 per cent. The Government is determined to cut the number of consultants by 10 per cent by 1980.

The second tier would comprise "approved" physicians, with special qualifications or experience, who would be free to determine their fees, and whose patients would be reimbursed at the official rate. Finally, doctors bound by no agreement could charge what they liked, but their patients would be refunded only at the arbitrary rate of, at present, 40 per cent of a consultation.

In fact, there is already a three-tier classification of practitioners, because about a quarter of the doctors are paid more than the basic fee of 40 francs a consultation, while only 1.5 per cent of them have refused to endorse the national agreement which came into force in 1971.

The difference between the new system and the present one is that access to the second category would be free, and not as now decided by a joint commission of doctors and health fund managers; and that the payment of the fee reimbursed would apparently be frozen.

The medical profession is divided on the issue. The fear of the more progressive-minded doctors who believe in "social medicine" is that the "socialized medicine" is that the number of doctors in the second category would rise sharply, particularly if the controls and restrictions on the first category were tightened up considerably. General practitioners with a large and wealthy practice would join the specialists. And in the first category as the Socialist newspaper *Le Matin* points out, would be left only those with poorer patients or young doctors.

It would certainly cut national health costs but at the detriment of free access to medical care for all.

Dutch Cabinet emergency
over minister's resignation

In Robert Schull, Feb 20

The Dutch Cabinet met in an emergency session tonight after an announcement that Mr. van Agt, the Minister of Finance, had resigned.

The announcement came in the form of a letter from Mr. van Agt to the Prime Minister, in which he stated that he was resigning because of a conflict of interest between his duties as Minister of Finance and his duties as a member of the House of Representatives.

Mr. van Agt's resignation was a surprise, as he had been a member of the Cabinet for over 10 years. He was the only member of the Cabinet to have served for more than 10 years.

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French cash in on newly
monetized coins

Our Own Correspondent, Feb 20

Shops near the Paris Gare d'Orléans were crowded today as hundreds of people took advantage of the Government's decision to demonetize all five, 10 and 20 franc coins containing silver. Prices of anything from seven times the face value were realized for the coins, which had been legal tender since the night before.

The all such transactions are subject to strict laws which require sales to 50 coins, and are in any event subject to a 10 per cent tax, black marketeers on the pavement outside the shops were also brisk, coins changing hands at more than 10 times their face value.

The Government's decision to demonetize the coins is due to the rise in the value of silver which means that the 10 franc coins in the five franc

OVERSEAS

Pretoria hawks plan
for contingency of
Rhodesia intervention

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg, Feb 20

Military hawks in South Africa are suggesting that the Army will intervene in Rhodesia if a civil war breaks out after the weekend.

Mr. P. W. Botha, the Prime Minister, is apparently trying to calm the situation. He has said that the Government's policy is to support the white-minority Government in Rhodesia, but that it will not intervene militarily unless it is absolutely necessary.

The arrests follow an announcement that troops have been moved into northern Natal province to search for a band of between eight and 10 guerrillas who attacked a trading store at the weekend.

Mr. R. F. Botha, the Foreign Minister, has sent a Note of Protest to the Mozambique Government stating that there is conclusive evidence that it is harbouring guerrillas and warning that South Africa reserves the right to take any necessary steps to protect South African life and property.

The warning was seen as South Africa's toughest statement so far to Mozambique's Frelimo regime since it came to power in 1975, and with which the South African Government has elected for a "live and let live" relationship.

Dr. Jonas Savimbi, leader of the anti-government Unita resistance movement in Angola, left London yesterday after a five-day private visit during which he met business supporters and Conservative politicians (our Political Editor writes).

His visit to Britain was under the auspices of Mr. R. W. (Tiny) Rowland, chairman of Lonrho. Although some publicity was planned, Dr. Savimbi said before leaving that he had deferred to Foreign Office wishes and agreed not to appear on television.

A Foreign Office spokesman contradicted this, saying that no advice had been given Dr. Savimbi. Ministers were aware that he had been here but no ministers or officials had met him.

Dr. Savimbi would not be drawn on whom he had met, or on the details of the support that he had been seeking.

At a private reception Dr. Savimbi attended before leaving, it was clear that he was supported by about a dozen Conservative MPs, including Mr. Edward du Cann, chairman of the 1922 Committee of Conservative backbenchers.

There is no doubt that South Africa has the military muscle to intervene but whether the South African public would stand for the casualties such a campaign would involve is another issue. And Mr. Botha, who in 1975 sent South African troops into Angola, has much to consider, including a possible election to secure a mandate for change in the apartheid structure.

Increasing incursions over the Mozambique border by guerrillas of the African National Congress are adding to the pressure on Mr. Botha to take firm action over Rhodesia.

The security police today announced the capture of two guerrillas who, they said, had slipped into South Africa to sabotage a strategic target. They were captured near Durban, a main port.

Alarm in
London
at wave of
intimidation

By Hugh Noyes, Parliamentary Correspondent

There were indications in the House of Commons yesterday that the Government is becoming increasingly alarmed over developments in Rhodesia, and the apparent failure of all the efforts being made to reduce intimidation.

With elections now only a week away, Sir Ian Gilmour, the Lord Privy Seal, and Government spokesman on foreign affairs in the Commons, told the House that political intimidation was making it extremely difficult for most parties to campaign in certain areas.

Dr. Savimbi made a stirring speech in which he said that he was fighting not for power but for principles. "If the Cubans and Russians are not stopped in Africa the dangers to southern Africa are very great."

There had been a disturbing number of violent incidents, Sir Ian hoped that the 540 British police volunteers who would travel to Salisbury at the weekend would help to control intimidation at the polls.

He added that "considerable consultations" had taken place in Rhodesia on the difficult and sensitive problem of the situation after the election.

He admitted that no complete solution had been found and he did not believe that there was one. He hoped that things would turn out "not too badly".

But, in striking contrast to his normally urbane and calm handling of Commons questioning, Sir Ian gave the impression yesterday of being unusually sensitive and irritable, even to the more moderate enquiries of Mr. Peter Shore, Labour's foreign affairs spokesman.

Mr. Shore expressed the widespread concern in the House at the course of events in Rhodesia, pointing out the urgent need to reinforce confidence in Britain's capacity to insist on effective and even-handed administration.

He suggested that the Government was much hampered by the lack of independent information in making its decisions and asked Sir Ian to explain the direct conflict of evidence between Government House's claim that the Mount Darwin area was one of the worst areas of intimidation, and the published statement yesterday of the British election supervisor on the spot that there was not the case.

Mr. Shore accepted that there was the ceasefire and the elections came from many sources and he urged the Government not to take any measures that would excite the already strong suspicion of impartiality.

Sir Ian responded that he would there could have been more even-handedness in Mr. Shore's remarks.

Replying to questions about the bombing of Salisbury churches, Sir Ian said that the incidents were being investigated but it was too early to attribute blame to the Selous Scouts or to any one else.

Mortar attack: Guerrillas loyal to Mr. Mugabe today opened up with mortars on a Rhodesian police and Army patrol close to the perimeter of a ceasefire assembly point in north-eastern Rhodesia, a British military spokesman said in Salisbury, Reuters.

هكذا من الأهل



The five members of the United Nations commission to investigate the affairs of the Shah are, from the left: Mr. Adib Daoudy, of Syria; Señor Andrés Aguilar, of Venezuela; Mr. Mohammad Bedjaoui, of Algeria; M. Louis-Edmond Petit, of France; and Mr. Harry Jayewardene, of Sri Lanka.

UN group waits as Iran shifts emphasis of
investigation to 'crimes' of United States

From Michael Leapman, New York, Feb 20

Dr. Kurt Waldheim, the United Nations Secretary-General, was able to make his much-delayed announcement today of the appointment of a commission to investigate the Iranian crisis.

The arrival of the five commissioners in the Iranian capital has, however, been delayed until the weekend, when the mandate is far less specifically linked to the release of the American hostages than the United States had wanted.

Even after the cable acceptance of the mission had been received early this morning from President Bani-Sadr, last-minute hitches delayed Dr. Waldheim's statement.

He had hoped to persuade the Iranians to accept the mission's arrival today—indeed the five were at the airport in Geneva awaiting his go-ahead—but Iran was adamant in insisting on three days' grace in order, as they said, to make proper preparations.

This delay puts paid to the suggestion made earlier this week that the 27 might be the deadline set by the Americans for the completion of the mission's work.

Nobody can envisage them taking less than a week over

their investigation, especially since the Iranians want them to interview each of the hostages—presumably to question them about American involvement in what the Iranians view as crimes against their people.

The Iranians have clearly been less accommodating than Dr. Waldheim had hoped. In a short, terse press conference announcing the appointment of the commission he declined to say whether there was any informal understanding on the timing of the hostages' release, though he did affirm that there was no fixed deadline for completion of any of the commission's tasks.

"This is a very delicate matter and I do not want to enter into the substance of the agreement," he said. Nor would he comment on the statement over Iranian radio that the commission's brief was to look into "treacheries, crimes and corruptions" of the United States in its dealings with the regime of the former Shah.

The Iranian interpretation of the mandate, taken together with the requirement that the commission should interview the hostages, shifts its emphasis to an investigation into the record of the United States rather than that of the Shah,

which had been the original understanding.

President Carter has already said that his administration will not apologise for any of its past actions.

The mandate of the commission as announced today by Dr. Waldheim is "to head Iran's grievances and allow an early solution to the crisis between the United States and Iran". He added that it would complete its work as soon as it could, and report to him.

Another wait: After spending most of the day at the airport waiting for the go-ahead from New York, the five-member international commission set up by the United Nations to receive Iranian complaints against the former Shah's regime tonight settled into a hotel here for a further wait (Alan McGregor writes from Geneva).

Their chartered jet was ready all day for take-off at a few minutes' notice. A departure time was twice scheduled and later postponed.

The five lawyers, who after lunch moved to the Algerian diplomatic mission to complete private talks, learned only in late afternoon that a number of open questions "still

remained following President Bani-Sadr's cable to Dr. Waldheim.

Until then, it had been believed that the hitch was technical rather than of substance.

The only word from them during the day came through Mr. Mohamed Bedjaoui, the Algerian member, who said that while they would go to Iran under agreed procedures they would be free to take any initiative for attaining their objective.

He denied they would be restricted to only a week in the Iranian capital.

With the commission is Mr. Diego Cordovez, a United Nations secretary-general, and half-a-dozen support staff. Because their chartered jet has only 12 seats, other United Nations assistants are booked on commercial flights.

President Carter "hopeful": President Carter has told members of Congress here that good progress is being made to secure the release of the 50 hostages from the American embassy in Tehran. But arrangements for their safe return have still not been completed (David Cross writes from Washington).

Leading article, page 7

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OVERSEAS

Moscow gets another chance from Bonn over Games boycott

From Patricia Clough Bonn, Feb 20

Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, said today that his Government was holding back on a formal decision about boycotting the Moscow Olympics in order to give the Soviet Union another chance over Afghanistan.

It so happened that President Carter's deadline for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan expired today as Mr. Cyrus Vance, his Secretary of State, was in Bonn for the second round of talks in two months on the Afghanistan situation.

But not even Mr. Vance's presence induced the West Germans to follow the American example and declare a boycott, even though leading West German politicians have clearly said it would be inconceivable for their sportsmen to compete in the absence of the Americans.

Questioned during a talk with the foreign press, the Chancellor indicated that there was still plenty of time for a decision since the deadline for entries to the Games expired some time in May.

Pressed to explain why he wanted to take more time, he replied somewhat waspishly: "We would like to give some people in the world another chance to create the conditions which would make participation possible."

The Chancellor did not hide his displeasure that President Carter had announced his ultimatum about the Olympic Games without previously consulting him and other European allies.

He said he had heard about the ultimatum on the day it was announced. That was "a little late". But he had no complaints about the ultimatum in general.

Mr. Vance said at a joint press conference with Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, his West German counterpart, that the United States was willing to improve its methods of consultation with its allies and this subject had been discussed in Bonn.

"It is critical that in situations like this we have both the mechanism and means for full discussion at all times," he said.

The press conference, held after hours of talks last night and today between the two, and more than two hours of consultations with the Chancellor, produced no indication of any change in the positions of the two key NATO allies.

Britain's Olympic stance defended

By David Spaxier Diplomatic Correspondent

Britain's first pro-Olympic medal was one easily enough yesterday by Mr. Douglas Hurd, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, holding the official line.

While a number of MPs at the Select Committee hearing tried to jostle Mr. Hurd out of his stride, claiming that the suit the Olympic authorities, or was applying double standards. Government had failed to come with South African rugby, Mr. Hurd went jogging imperturbably on war.

Whether the British Olympic Association will endorse the Government's advice, that British athletes would do better to stay away from Moscow, is another matter. Mr. Kenneth McNamara, Labour member for Hull, claimed that British athletes were being put under "fantastic pressure".

Mr. Hurd said that all that had happened was that the Prime Minister had written a letter, "there are no thumb-screws out," he said.

Earlier Mr. Nigel Spearing, Labour Member for Newham South, had demanded to know if the Minister was aware that the Government's comments about the games would be seen as offensive and untrue.

Looking somewhat surprised at this show of vehemence, Mr. Hurd replied that it could only be thought so by people who did not understand the Soviet system.

He made the point that athletes who chose to go to Moscow would be "voluntary actors in a play which, from the Soviet point of view, was being staged for its own propaganda. This would have been the case even if the invasion of Afghanistan had not taken place. But that event, for the Government, had "tipped the balance".

Mr. Anthony Grant, Conservative Member for Erewash Central, hoped that British athletes would at least have the grace to stay away from the ceremonial parade.

There was a film of the 1936 games in Berlin, Mr. Grant recalled, showing the French contingent giving the Nazi salute to Hitler as they went past.

Some consequences of the Government's decision to oppose the games have still to be worked out, Mr. Hurd revealed. One concerns the official advice to be given to the broadcasting media on whether to cover the games or not.

"Obviously we cannot give orders to the BBC or Independent television," Mr. Hurd said. "We shall have to consider it carefully."

A growing number of countries, and there might be further developments in the next few months. The Olympic Association had until May to reply to the Soviet invitation, and individual athletes could take their decision still later.

The fact that everyone was free to work out their positions, though it might be better if the West as a whole was agreed, was one of our difficulties and one of our strengths, Mr. Hurd added.



The exuberance of winning the Canadian general election shows in the face and actions of Mr. Pierre Trudeau in his office in Ottawa.

Russians dismiss EEC proposal that Afghanistan become neutral

From Michael Binyon Moscow, Feb 20

The deadline set by President Carter for a Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan passed today without the Russians taking the slightest notice of it.

The suggestion made yesterday by the European Economic Community that Afghanistan should be declared a neutral country has also been dismissed.

Tass quoted the French Communist newspaper *L'Humanité* as saying the idea was "absolutely unacceptable".

Mr. Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, refused to set any date for a pullback during his recent talks in Delhi, and senior Politburo members have all expressed their disapproval during speeches before the republican Supreme Soviet elections that the threats to the Afghan regime are, if anything, increasing.

Mr. Mikhail Suslov, the hard-line ideologist, said in a speech today that the American Government had used the Soviet help to Afghanistan as a pretext to launch a campaign of blackmail, slander and threats against the Soviet Union.

"But the Soviet people will not be intimidated," he added. "The American Government's actions will inflict damage primarily to the United States itself. The dangerous siege of the Soviet Union is no indication that he is likely to step down from office, and it is understood here that he has already begun to resume some of his official functions as head of Government."

And as the tone of Soviet attacks on the Carter Administration and on the President himself has become noticeably sharper, so it has become increasingly obvious that the Kremlin was unlikely to do anything that might suggest it was affected by the President's warnings or retaliatory measures.

Mr. Suslov repeated the Soviet assertion that the United States was trying to twist the arms of its West European allies, but said that Western Europe had a vital interest in maintaining and developing détente.

He said Soviet policy remained "principled and consistent", and the country was still committed to détente.

A more detailed statement of Soviet attitudes to the United States and the West is expected on Friday, when President Brezhnev makes the final and most authoritative speech to his Moscow constituents before the elections.

Tomorrow Mr. Alexei Kosygin, the Soviet Prime Minister, who has not been seen in public since he was taken seriously ill in mid-October, will make his speech. There is no indication that he is likely to step down from office, and it is understood here that he has already begun to resume some of his official functions as head of Government.

Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, insisted yesterday that his proposal was "not a demand" but a "suggestion". It is recognized that there are pitfalls. The West does not want to wind up giving international blessing to a Soviet puppet regime that is supposedly neutral. That implies credible machinery to ensure that the Russians are free to determine their own government.

Lord Carrington cited the historical precedent of the "unwritten agreement" between Britain and Russia to treat Afghanistan as a neutral buffer state. He suggested that some of Afghanistan's neighbours might act as guarantors of its neutrality.

These aspects are up for discussion. Not least among the questions that will have to be tackled is the possible need for some kind of international police force to supervise Afghan neutrality, at least during a transitional phase. The EEC has already clarified its own ideas on such matters, still less sounded the opinions of others.

The current tour of European capitals by Mr. Cyrus Vance, the United States Secretary of State, should give some indication of the American reaction to the EEC proposal. President Carter was advised last week and was not discouraging. But the Americans may not be happy about the downgrading of the Olympics issue.

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World View by Arrigo Lev

Psychological factors explain Italy's economic successes

A successful defence of what Raymond Aron called "a decadent Europe" against the urges of the last surviving empire, the Soviet Union, will certainly have to include a better management of the capitalist economy. But is there a future for capitalism? Is it not fatally losing vitality, due to the spread of suffocating regulations, rooted in the universal desire for a maximum of security with a minimum of effort? Is not the tests itself for risk and profit in a free market dying away?

While a deliberate attempt is being made in Britain to reverse the trend to "state socialism" (or rather, to the unionized, bureaucratic welfare economy) a spontaneous revival of capitalism has been taking place in another country. Italy, which had equally progressed in the same dangerous direction.

Split mind of modern man

The Italian case seems to show that instincts are hard to die. Even today, a primitive, capitalistic Mr. Hyde, with an unbridled passion for hard work and money, lives, only half asleep, behind the facade of a sophisticated, bureaucratic Dr. Jekyll, ready to take over and abandon himself to an orgy of productive work, as soon as he sees a chance to make himself rich, rather than the insipidness of taxes. The "mixed economy" is rooted in the split mind of modern man.

Economists feel compelled to call into account such unquantifiable psychological factors in order to explain fully some of the recent successes of that still mysterious object, the Italian economy. The very faults that make Italian society almost ungovernable—the widespread aggressiveness, the disregard of rules, the insouciance of individuals and social groups—become as many virtues when transferred to the sphere of private enterprise. Thanks to these qualities, the Italian economy has reacted resiliently to the challenge of the post-oil crisis era.

Jekyll and Hyde economic model

The Italian example seems to show that a capitalistic, enterprise system can survive and expand side by side with the "bureaucratic" sector, including state industry, the heavy industry, the public sector, many large-size private companies.

The same people are actively engaged in both spheres: "socialists" up to a certain hour of the day, they are capitalists in the evening. The shortening of the working day has not contributed to the growth of this Jekyll-and-Hyde economic model. The inefficiency of the Italian rate also helped by bringing into disrepute the "public" ideology and making people realize that the market works better. I do not, however, suggest this as a template for others to follow.

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Priest murdered in latest Uganda violence

From Our Correspondent Nairobi, Feb 20

The Ugandan authorities are facing serious problems of internal security, from both sides of the border, from both sides of the border.

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Nine united on Carrington plan

From Michael Hornsby Brussels, Feb 20

The EEC's British-inspired proposal for a neutral Afghanistan under international guarantee has skillfully injected a constructive note into the West's hitherto purely condemnatory response to the Soviet intervention in that country and helped the Community to disguise its internal disagreements.

Arguably, by showing their hand so soon, the Nine have exposed their embryonic initiative to the risk of Soviet rejection before its possibilities have had chance to be fully explored. But disclosing the proposal was felt to be unavoidable because of the publicity surrounding yesterday's meeting in Rome.

The overriding need, in the Foreign Minister's view, was to show that the EEC could do more than simply squabble over such matters as attendance at the Moscow Olympic Games or the export of surplus butter.

They also wanted to show that they have their own ideas on Afghanistan and are not mere camp followers of the United States.

The sudden outbreak of harmony did not lessen differences of opinion over the merits of boycotting the Olympics which, if anything, became even sharper at the Rome meeting. But that issue does appear to have been relegated to a position of secondary importance, pending assessment of the

proposal by the Soviet Union.

Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, insisted yesterday that his proposal was "not a demand" but a "suggestion". It is recognized that there are pitfalls. The West does not want to wind up giving international blessing to a Soviet puppet regime that is supposedly neutral. That implies credible machinery to ensure that the Russians are free to determine their own government.

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Villagers flee from Kabul's gunship attacks

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The military threat that this poses to Pakistan scarcely needs emphasizing. Jalalabad is only 60 miles from the border at the Khyber Pass and Russian troops are also reported to be camped in numbers north of the village of Spinboldak, south of Kandahar, where rebel groups are also particularly active.

A large concentration of Soviet armour so near the Pakistan border cannot fail to increase international tension and it could also appear to embolden the Russian officer to embark on a "hot pursuit" of rebels across the frontier to provoke a superpower crisis.

By the same token, any increase in rebel activity, such as that which is now being witnessed in the eastern Afghan provinces, is going to be inter-

preted by the Russians as provocation by the west. Russian radio broadcasts to Afghanistan repeatedly accuse the United States, China, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia of arming the mujaheddin. If the rebels acquired ground-to-air missiles, the sound of rockets exploding in tiny villages and their evacuation by the population (in itself an unprecedented phenomenon in this part of Afghanistan)—is beginning to look like the sound of new recruits of the Vietnam War.

Russian armour is reported to be continuing to flood into Afghanistan across the Amu Darya River from the Soviet Union. Last night, for example, a long column of T-72 tanks could be observed travelling down the Salang Pass towards Kabul together with logistics and radio lorries.

In the east, fighting appears to have broken out between Soviet troops and deserting Afghan soldiers, particularly around the airfield at Payzabad although reports from Peshawar that the airport has been captured by the rebels should be treated with great caution.

However, there is little doubt that Soviet helicopters have heavily bombed the villages of Alishang and Alingar, not far from Matarian in Lagman province.

Our time is often seen as offering no hope for any constructive outlook to the future. A dehumanized science and cultural decadence seem to be the final fate, inspiring only critical intellectualism and rigorous control of the individual.

Those few who think differently could change the course if the unchallengeable principles that rule life are accepted as common guidance and take preference over the pursuit of personal gain.

This is an appeal to men and women in all parts of our planet to join forces and rethink our economic and cultural goals, to allow the supreme truth to manifest in our earthly affairs.

Your communication is welcomed.

planetary law, 50 Queensway, London W2, United Kingdom.

OVERSEAS

Begin Cabinet faces crucial vote on extremists' demands to settle among Arabs in Hebron

From Christopher Walker

Hebron, Feb 20—A large Arab city steeped in Jewish Biblical history with a mayor who supports the Palestinian Liberation Organization and a heavily guarded Jewish settlement perched provocatively on its outskirts. Hebron has long been the focal point for the Arab-Israeli conflict on the occupied West Bank.

After the murder of a young Jewish settler in its crowded Casbah, last month, the situation has reached the point where both the American and Egyptian governments have given warnings that the future of the Middle East peace process could be undermined.

In an emotional response to the killing of Mr Joshua Sima, an immigrant from Denmark, the Israeli Cabinet bowed to right-wing pressures and decided in principle to allow Jews to settle in the city centre. It will have to vote in the next few weeks whether to implement the decision, a move which would mark a radical change from the post-1967 policy of keeping settlers away from large concentrations of Arabs.

Jewish extremists from Kiryat Arba, the new suburb of concrete tower blocks which overlooks Hebron, have used the occasion to renew demands to return to a number of buildings in the residential area. They claim that these were abandoned by members of the small Jewish community who fled in August 1929, after more than 50 of their fellows had been massacred by Arabs.

Most of the extremists support *Gush Emunim* (Block of the Faithful), the group which advocates the right of Jews to live in any part of the Biblical land of Israel. They stubbornly disregard the opposition of Hebron's 50,000 Arabs to the proposed move or to the sheer impracticability of moving families into a hostile environment.

"This is no longer 1929 and we now have our soldiers and strict laws to defend us," explained Rabbi Moshe Levinger, who helped to set up Kiryat Arba 10 years ago. "If the Army left, we would be killed so there must be an indefinite occupation. We want as many Jews to come and live here as possible."

Other supporters of a Jewish return to Hebron are more outspoken, openly advocating the exodus of the Arab population from the city—one of the four in the world regarded as holy by the Jews. Speaking during the recent curfew which kept 20,000 Arabs confined to their homes, Rabbi Haim Druckman, a member of the Knesset, told a crowd of several hundred Jews: "Anyone who does not want us here can find somewhere else to live."

As a start, the settlers have submitted a list of five buildings in the city centre which they claim can be occupied immediately. But Yitzhak Zamir, the Attorney General, has ruled out the legal feasibility of occupying three of them because they are leased under protected tenancy agreements to local organizations.

The ruling has done nothing to deter the militants who responded with a call for Mr Zamir's resignation and a threat to occupy the buildings by force if their demands are not met. They have also been unmoved by the fact that the heirs to the Jewish family owning one of the two other buildings have informed the Government that they do not want Jews to move into it.

The ambivalence of the Begin Government's attitude towards extreme Jewish settlers has been underlined by its reluctance to take any action against the 70 women and children from Kiryat Arba who have been squatting illegally in a former hospital in the centre of Hebron since last April. Israeli soldiers guard them 24 hours a day and even allow messages to be passed through the Army's communications network.

When I visited the building I discovered that fresh water is provided regularly by the Israeli authorities and that government finance had been used to fit out the dilapidated building with toilets, doors and windows.

Arab residents of Hebron remained deeply apprehensive about the future. Mr Fawd Kawasma, the mayor, has used the occasion to emphasize what he sees as the unfair treatment of the Palestinians. "Of course, we will welcome Jews who wish to be in Hebron," he said. "But on condition that we are permitted to return to property in Israel seized from us in 1948."

Riddle of Everest near solution

Japanese climbers to seek Briton's body

Tokyo, Feb 20—Did the British climbers, George Leigh Mallory and Andrew Irvine, conquer the summit of Mount Everest before succumbing to an icy death in June, 1924? They were last seen about 800ft below the summit before clouds hid them from view.

One of the riddles of the world's highest mountain, which has baffled experts, may soon be solved by a Japanese team preparing for a spring expedition to climb the 29,028ft peak.

A Chinese climber, just before his own death on Mount Everest last October, reported seeing the body of an Englishman at a height of 26,580ft.

The Japanese team will be searching for a camera carried by Mallory and Irvine near the summit. Experts believe the films in it could still be printed.

A picture of one of the two men on the peak would change the history of mountain climbing. It is widely acknowledged that Sir Edmund Hillary, of New Zealand, and Sherpa Tenzing Norgay, members of the eighth British expedition, were the first to reach the summit of Mount Everest in 1953.

Since then, 105 climbers in 19 parties have reached the summit. But all of them, except 12 members of two Chinese expeditions who climbed Mount Everest in 1960 and 1975, through the Tibetan north-east ridge route, known as the Mallory route followed southern routes from Nepal.

The Japan Alpine Club will send its expedition to China to attack the peak by way of the north-east ridge and the unconquered north wall between late April and early May.

Aoyten Hasegawa, a member of the Japanese reconnaissance party, told reporters that last October, just below the north cul a Chinese guide-climber told him he had seen an Englishman's body during a Chinese expedition in 1975.

Mr Hasegawa, a Buddhist priest, said the Chinese, Wang Hongbad, had been a member of the unsuccessful first attack party on the summit. The second and third assault parties succeeded in putting nine members on the summit.

According to Mr Hasegawa, Wang, pointing with his pick axe to the final pyramid area, said he saw the body behind rocks and wrote the figure 8,100 on the snow, indicating the height in metres.

Mr Hasegawa does not understand Chinese but with the help of Wang's gestures and written Chinese characters he understood what Wang wanted to say.

Mr Hasegawa, who will take part in the assault party this year, believed the body was that of either Mallory or Irvine.

Mr Tom Holzel, an American climber has written to the Japan Alpine Club, asking it to search for any traces of the two, including a camera. Mr Holzel believes that at least one of the two Britons had a chance of reaching the top.—Reuter.

Thai alliance aims to bring down Premier

From Neil Kelly Bangkok, Feb 20

In an attempt to overthrow General Kriangsak Chavanond as Prime Minister of Thailand, workers, students and politicians are joining in an alliance similar to one that forced an earlier military junta from power in 1973.

They have declared that removing General Kriangsak is their main aim. He has been Prime Minister since November, 1977.

Almost 10,000 people took part in an anti-government rally yesterday. It was the biggest political demonstration in Thailand since the military coup of October, 1976, and an even bigger protest is being planned for tomorrow.

Meanwhile, political parties are trying to force the Government to recall Parliament to discuss the deteriorating economy and declining confidence in the Government.

Inflation is running at more than 30 per cent and there is dissatisfaction with General Kriangsak's reshuffled government. In the reshuffle, six elected politicians were dismissed. Of the remaining members of the 38-man government, only three were elected. The others were appointed.

Political commentators here regard the challenge as the most serious General Kriangsak has yet faced as Prime Minister, but it is doubtful whether the opposition can secure enough votes in the Senate, which is appointed by the Prime Minister, to unseat him.



All that remained of beach front homes at Malibu, California, after days of Pacific storms brought floods and mud slides.

Israel says PLO has Soviet tanks

From Moshe Brilliant Tel Aviv, Feb 20

The Israeli Military Command today released intelligence photographs which it claimed confirmed that Soviet T34 tanks had reached Palestinian guerrillas in southern Lebanon.

In a background paper this evening, the command said the tanks, which were the first by the Soviet bloc to guerrilla forces in the region, are ominous proof that Moscow was going ahead with plans to organize the guerrilla forces "along regular Soviet lines".

The document asserted that the Soviet Union was building the political and military infrastructure of a future Soviet satellite in the form of the "PLO" and had invested hundreds of millions of dollars in it.

The command published an aerial photograph showing two tanks on a ground photograph showing one. "The photographs clearly enable the identification of T34 tanks," a spokesman said. He added that they had been taken recently in the Sidon region under the control of the PLO.

Israel had reliable information, he said, that additional shipments of communist tanks and war material would reach the guerrillas soon and that Palestinians were completing unarmoured warfare training in Syria and in Soviet bloc countries.

In the short term, the tanks would jeopardize the tenuous balance of power in Lebanon it is believed.

Martial law extended in Turkey

Ankara, Feb 20—The Turkish Government placed two more provinces under martial law today, including the Aegean province of Izmir where troops and left-wing militants clashed last week.

The Cabinet was acting on a recommendation yesterday from the National Security Council, the country's highest advisory body, which called for martial law in Izmir and southern Hatay province on the Syrian border.

Martial law was declared in 13 of Turkey's 67 provinces in December, 1978, when bloody political riots broke out in eastern Kahramanmaraş province. Six more provinces were added to the military rule last April.

The Cabinet, acting on another National Security Council recommendation, today lifted martial law in eastern Sivas province, leaving a total of 20 provinces still under military control.

The city of Izmir has been the scene of political violence for more than a month. Hatay has experienced sporadic political killings and other acts of violence for the past two months.—Reuter.

King Khalid better

Riyadh, Feb 20—King Khalid of Saudi Arabia was "improving rapidly" in hospital today from exhaustion suffered on a tour of his kingdom. A medical report said the king, who is 67, needed a few more days' rest.

Nations of South united by dependence on North

The fifth article in a series on the report of the Brandt Commission.

By Roger Barthoud

The nations of the "South", ranging from a booming half-industrial nation like Brazil to a poor land-locked country like Chad, share a common predicament, says the Brandt Commission report. These countries are dependent on the "North" and many are bound together by their colonial experience.

The nations of the South, including China, have three quarters of the world's population but live on one fifth of the world's income. In the North, the average person lives more than 70 years, will rarely go hungry, and will be educated at least to secondary level.

In most countries of the South, a majority of people have a life expectancy closer to 50 years. In the poorest countries, one in four children dies before the age of five. One fifth or more of all people in the South suffer from hunger and malnutrition: 50 per cent have no chance to become literate.

The North's countries dominate the international trading system and contain more than 30 per cent of the world's manufacturing industry. Most patents and new technology belong to multinational corporations of the North, which conduct a large share of investment and trade in raw materials and manufactured goods.

In the North, ordinary people face genuine problems: unemployment, inflation and so on. In the South, the poorest face total deprivation. Malnutrition, illiteracy, disease, high birth rates, underemployment and low income interact to close off the avenues of escape.

Estimates of the number of destitute range from 700 million to 800 million. Mass poverty remains a mainly rural affliction: the poorest people in India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Indonesia and most of Africa are still in the rural villages.

Literacy has made variable progress. About one-third of adults in developing countries

were literate in 1950. Just over half were literate in 1975. Literacy in Latin America rose from 65 per cent in 1960 to 75 per cent in 1970; in Asia, from 45 per cent to 55 per cent; in Africa, from 20 per cent to 26 per cent.

According to the United Nations, there are still 34 countries where 80 per cent of the population is illiterate. By contrast, higher education has often taken a disproportionate share of budgets.

The status of women in developing countries frequently denies them equal access to education, jobs, land ownership, credit and, in some countries, nutritious food.

In most poor rural areas women gather firewood and carry water over long distances. The provision of alternative fuels would help to check deforestation, and also give women more time for education, income-generation and social participation.

The commission puts some of the blame for the Third World's poverty on economic structures which favour the industrialized countries. But its report also points out that the benefits of growth in developing countries have often accrued mainly to minorities in industry, agriculture, or the higher rungs of the public services and professions. Changes in the international system must be complemented in most countries by social and economic reforms.

In some middle-income developing countries, enjoying significant revenue from productive resources, the main need is for policies to redistribute income and assets and expand employment opportunities. In poorer ones, a package including agrarian reform, promotion of small enterprises, and changes in the organization of public services is essential.

In many countries, a minority of landlords and large farmers may own 40 per cent to 60 per cent of arable land. Social and economic reforms, the Commission believes, are a necessary complement to any concerted international effort to reduce the gap between the rich North and poor South.



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Appointments Vacant also on page 25

APPLICATIONS PROGRAMMER

SCIENTIFIC DATA BASE SYSTEMS

The Crystallography and Data Bases Group of the Daresbury Laboratory has a vacancy for an applications programmer to join a team working on the development of data base systems for use by scientists in the Universities and within the laboratory. This area of work is growing constantly, and presently includes interactive retrieval systems for crystallographic and chemical data banks and a data base management system for atomic scattering data. Available computers include an IBM 370/165 and the DEC system-10 and PRIME Minicomputers of the SRC's Interactive Computing Facility.

The post offered is a permanent position on either the Scientific Officer or Higher Scientific Officer salary scales £3,591 to £5,496 + £5,057 to £8,737 respectively at a level depending upon age, qualifications and experience. Applicants of either sex should have a good honours degree in a scientific discipline and have considerable computer programming experience. Some knowledge of data base management systems would be an added advantage.

There is a non-contributory superannuation scheme, a generous leave allowance and a flexible working hours scheme. Closing date: 28th March, 1980. Please write (or telephone 0925-65000, ext. 467) for an application form quoting reference DL/721/T to:

The Personnel Officer
DARESBURY LABORATORY
Science Research Council
Daresbury, Warrington WA4 4AD

HTV Job Opportunities

HTV will shortly be opening a new studio centre in North Wales, bringing fresh job opportunities at all grades and in all sections.

Site of the centre is at Mold (pop. 8,750) a county and market town near the attractive Vale of Clwyd, well placed for communications within North Wales and across the border (Wrexham 11 miles, Chester 12, Llangollen 19, Liverpool 23, Llandudno 39, Shrewsbury 42, Bangor 52, Caernarfon 80).

The new centre will contribute fully to HTV's coverage of Welsh affairs in both Welsh and English and staff based at Mold will have the opportunity to work on occasional outside broadcasts as well as on studio productions.

HTV is principally interested in hearing from experienced workers in television who are looking for improved job opportunities in an attractive area of relatively low house prices and living costs. Assistance with relocation expenses will be available to selected job candidates. Payment scales in general will be based on the appropriate national union agreement, plus generous local supplements.

Anyone with relevant experience who is interested in exploring further this unusual employment opportunity in Independent Television should write to:

The Personnel Manager,
HTV,
Television Centre,
Cardiff CF1 9XL



ESCORT OFFICERS

Required to accompany official visitors from overseas on Information Visits in London and the South East and to assist in planning their programmes. The escorting work can involve irregular hours including weekend duty. Residence within easy reach of Central London is therefore essential. Applicants should have a sound knowledge of London and its institutions and some knowledge of the governmental, industrial, economic and social structure of present day Britain, and of national and international affairs. Experience of similar work and language qualifications would be an advantage but neither are essential.

This is seasonal employment initially for periods up to 3 months with a maximum of 6 months but opportunities may arise to compete for permanent appointment. The posts are graded Assistant Information Officer. Salary is at the rate of £5,180 per annum, due for review from 1 April, 1980. Please send a postcard for an application form to:

Central Office of Information,
Allan House,
Room 59, Floor 1,
Holborn Viaduct,
London EC1N 2PD

quoting reference number COI/OV/15/AA. Closing date for completed forms is 13 March 1980.

INDEPENDENT TELEVISION COMPANIES INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

The Independent Television Companies have a vacancy in London for a young man or woman who is seeking a career in industrial relations. Applicants should be graduates or should have had relevant experience. Conditions of employment are excellent, and salary will be not less than £5,000 a year, dependent upon age and experience.

Applications in writing, giving full details of education and experience, should be addressed to—

CHIEF EXECUTIVE,
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KNIGHTON HOUSE, 52/56 MORTIMER STREET,
LONDON W1N 8AN

30 YEARS OF THE TIMES SUB-EDITOR

Sub-editor required for Scottish edition of The Times Educational Supplement based in London. Good sub-editorial experience. Ability to take charge of layout and production of Scottish pages in liaison with editor and staff in Edinburgh. Good knowledge of Scottish affairs essential; knowledge of Scottish education an advantage.

Apply Stuart Macleod, Editor, The Times Educational Supplement, P.O. Box No. 7, New Printing House Square, Gray's Inn Road, London, WC1N 8EZ.

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(m or f) or married couple

To take an enthusiastic part in day to day running of busy family owned hotel. Applicants aged 25-40 should have attractive personality, sense of humour and ability to work in a team. This position involves a lot of responsibility and a good salary. Apply in writing with photo to: Dalia Tinsley, Director, Lord Nelson Hotel, Ardara, by Owen, Angle.

HOTEL BOAT CREW

We want a young man to join our team of hotel boat crew. He should be a good swimmer, have a good sense of humour and be able to work in a team. He should be able to take a good deal of responsibility and have a good salary. Apply in writing with photo to: Dalia Tinsley, Director, Lord Nelson Hotel, Ardara, by Owen, Angle.

CHEMISTRY TEACHER

Required immediately for a secondary school. He should have a good knowledge of chemistry and be able to teach. He should be able to take a good deal of responsibility and have a good salary. Apply in writing with photo to: Dalia Tinsley, Director, Lord Nelson Hotel, Ardara, by Owen, Angle.

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

ADMIRALTY LAW

We have a vacancy for a Solicitor with experience in collision, salvage and related claims, and litigation. Applicants should be prepared to practice in Hong Kong. If required, for an agreed period (normally 2 years), should write in confidence with Curriculum Vitae to: Mr. P. J. Eland, Solicitor, 128-140 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 4EP. Tel: 01-377 9944

ENTERTAINMENTS

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VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM, 100, Strand, London WC2R 0AL. Tel: 01-377 9944

WILLIAMSON GALLERY, 100, Strand, London WC2R 0AL. Tel: 01-377 9944

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Is breast cancer next for a treatment breakthrough?

At last the tide seems to be turning in the medical battle against breast cancer—the most common cancer in women. Despite enormous research efforts deaths from the disease have shown depressingly little change in the past 40 years, but several recent developments provide grounds for optimism.

Mortality was cut in some forms of leukaemia and lymphatic cancers such as Hodgkin's disease—by treatment with combinations of drugs such as cyclophosphamide, methotrexate and vincristine.

Specialist units throughout the world conducted a long series of research trials in which groups of patients were treated with different drug combinations and kept under observation year after year, slowly but steadily improving the proportion cured and reducing the frequency of unpleasant, often dangerous side effects.

The same approach is now producing dividends in breast cancer. In the earliest major trial, Gianni Bonadoni's research group in Milan has been comparing the results of treating women by the conventional operation, radical mastectomy, with a combination of the same operation and treatment for a year with three anticancer drugs. Five years after the start of the trial 48 per cent of the first group of women are free of any signs of recurrence of their cancer; in those given drugs the proportion is 64 per cent.

The difference is even more striking in the younger, premenopausal women: 44 per cent survival without recurrence for surgery alone and 69 per cent in those given drugs. These encouraging results have stimulated many other groups to try similar treatment programmes—as was done with the leukaemia trials—looking at small variations in the treatment in an attempt to improve the results.

Should drug treatment now be combined with surgery in every case? The current consensus of surgical opinion is that such a decision would be premature. The drug treatment is unpleasant and longer evaluation is needed both to assess its effects on mortality and any possible delayed complications.

A second important change in attitudes to breast cancer has been wider recognition of the variability of the disease in different women. Some have fast-growing tumours which without treatment cause rapidly fatal illness. Others (rarely) have tumours which have little effect on health for 15 years or more. Age and hormonal balance are further important factors and much current research is aimed at assessing the pattern of the disease in individual women. Tests carried out at the time of diagnosis can help establish how far (if at all) the disease has spread, and taken into account with the other factors

will determine the optimum line of treatment.

Thirdly, and possibly as an effect of pressure from women's groups, cancer specialists have developed several ways of minimizing the mutilating aspects of treatment. One method is for the operation to be restricted to simple removal of the lump followed by radiotherapy. Another alternative is for the breast to be removed but for a silicone replacement to be fitted beneath the skin either immediately or some months later. Certainly the massive operations that were so common 10 years ago are now recommended far less often.

Part of the explanation of the swing towards less radical surgery may be that women are coming for treatment earlier. One of the few certainties about breast cancer is that the smaller the lump, the better the outlook. As more women have learned techniques of self-examination or begun to attend regular screening sessions, the proportion is rising with small tumours when first seen by a surgeon.

The combination of greater awareness among women of the importance of early treatment and of improvements in the treatment itself has led to the continuing decade to a progressive reduction in mortality from breast cancer—at long last.

Dr Tony Smith
Medical Correspondent

Screening for early diagnosis

Screening for breast cancer could lead to a cut in the number of deaths from the disease by as much as a half, judging by early results from the first major breast screening project in the country.

It is just one year since the government set up the project to screen women aged 45 to 64 in two centres, Guildford and Edinburgh, to determine the impact of screening (both by X-ray and examining the breasts) on the mortality rate. In two other towns, Nottingham and Huddersfield, the effectiveness of self-examination of the breast in being studied and in seven years, deaths from breast cancer in the four centres will be measured against those in four unselected towns.

First findings from Guildford, where 7,500 women have been screened, show a pick-up rate of five breast cancers per thousand women. But what is significant is that the cancers are smaller, less widespread and in more cases operable than those which come through the usual channels of "out-patient" clinics. The one other large-scale breast screening project, in New York in the 60s, showed screening cut the death rate by one-third. At Guildford, however, more advanced techniques are enabling cancers to be detected at an earlier stage.

The size of a tumour, its stage of development and degree of spread are all important in gauging the outlook for the patient. In the screening project, only 10 per cent of women who had cancer had a tumour which had spread to the lymph glands, generally a sign of a poorer prognosis, as against 40 per cent of those at clinics. Again, half the patients in clinics have tumours of five centimetres in diameter or more, which means they are too advanced for radical surgery to be the sole answer. Those have to be treated with radiotherapy.

In the project however the equivalent percentage was 20 per cent. The proportion of big and widespread tumours is

expected to be even less this year, as the first year will have screened out all advanced cases.

Women with small, confined breast cancers do much better. In an average of two centimetres across, as was the case with over half those operated on for cancer in the sample, there is an 85 per cent likelihood the women will live at least 10 years; under one centimetre the likelihood is 95 per cent, which is normal life expectancy.

Another encouraging finding is that the screening is detecting women whose cancers are at such an early stage that they do not have to have the breast removed. With pre-cancerous lumps still at the stage where they have not spread beyond the first tissue layer, the pre-invasive stage, then it is possible to have a less extensive breast excision and by skilful juggling of the rest of the tissue, reconstruct the breast.

If the pre-invasive cancer is scattered throughout the breast at several sites, then instead of removal of the breast, the total breast tissue can be taken out, leaving the outer skin under which a false breast or prosthesis is inserted. Five of the 35 cancers detected last year were dealt with by some reconstruction of the breast.

One criticism sometimes made of breast screening is that operations are done unnecessarily, on doubtful lumps which turn out to be benign. Guildford prides itself on one of the lowest biopsy rates of any such project to date. The 7,500 women screened represented a response rate of 69 per cent of all invited, a figure slightly distorted because of errors with addresses and the provision of a telephone number, or two firms in the area, such as Marks and Spencer. Only very few women failed to come through fear, most feeling it better to know about their health than worry in ignorance.

Of the 7,500, one in eight were recalled

for further checks and of these one quarter referred for surgical opinion, which was under 2 per cent of all screened. Of these in turn, only two thirds had an operation, with the remainder being sent home for every seven weeks that were benign. The usual ratio is one cancerous lump for every five benign.

Obviously a big factor in determining the value of such screening nationally will be cost. Dr Barbara Thomas, project co-ordinator, estimates that with the project cost last year at £120,000, the cost per woman screened is £15, or £3,000 per cancer found. The cost of screening for cervical cancer works out at roughly the same, at about £3,500 per cancer. But she says it can be done much more cheaply, at a cost of £7 to £8 per woman, using X-ray alone, although the pick-up rate might be 90 per cent of that when both mammogram and examination are used.

But national screening would be quite impossible, doctors argue, without proper back-up facilities in the way of interested surgeons, pathologists, and radiologists, all trained to interpret the signs of breast cancer. Nurses at Guildford have been trained to examine breasts and doctors there, also radiologists, to read the mammograms (often part-time women doctors working from home), and there is a large back-up staff of volunteers to help with the paperwork.

This training ought to be going on throughout the country now, if Dr Thomas' predictions are correct and a need for national breast screening is confirmed by the project results in seven years. She emphasises that the screening is not going to prevent the disease itself but prevent people dying from it. With 12,000 deaths a year from breast cancer in England and Wales, a cut of half would be no small saving in lives.

Frances Gibbs

The grain with everything

The Times Cook



Shona Crawford Poole

The longest lunch queues in London now are for wholemeal...

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225g (8 oz) dried apricots, roughly chopped

125g (4 oz) raisins

1.25 kg (2 1/2 lb) whole wheat flour, preferably freshly ground

15c (1 oz) butter to glaze the loaves

Tip the yogurt into a large mixing bowl and add the melted butter or oil, honey, salt, chopped bananas, walnuts, apricots and raisins. Mix these together then add three-quarters of the flour. Use your hands to work the mixture into a dough which will hold together but is still slightly moist. The amount of liquid that whole wheat flours take up varies so widely that it is difficult to specify exact quantities. Add as much of the remaining flour as is needed to produce a dough of workable consistency.

Knead the dough on a floured surface for about 10 minutes, then divide it in two and shape each half into a round loaf. Slash the tops of the loaves to stop the crusts splitting during baking, and set them on a lightly oiled baking sheet. At

with. And you'll taste the difference.

How did the author of this stimulating selection of recipes alight on her extraordinary title? One day, almost three years ago, when I was cooking at the time, I was in the Colony in Peterborough, New Hampshire. I packed in the colonists' lunch baskets my favourite unyeasted bread—an invention made from whole wheat flour, apricots, raisins, bananas, yogurt and walnuts.

colony: Tulle Olsen, sent me a note right back: "Thanks for the bread—it's wings".

As unyeasted bread is sold even by wholefood shops, the very analogy is an odd one. However the bread is excellent, a dense, semi-sweet loaf that is almost a meal in itself.

Infuriatingly, measurements in the book have not been converted from American to Imperial and metric quantities, so I have adapted the recipes which follow here.

Wings of life bread. Makes two loaves.

500 ml (1 pint) natural yogurt

4 tablespoons melted butter or sesame seed oil

4 tablespoons honey

1 tablespoon sea salt

3 or 4 very ripe bananas, roughly chopped

170g (6 oz) walnuts, roughly chopped

225g (8 oz) dried apricots, roughly chopped

125g (4 oz) raisins

1.25 kg (2 1/2 lb) whole wheat flour, preferably freshly ground

15c (1 oz) butter to glaze the loaves

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Knead the dough on a floured surface for about 10 minutes, then divide it in two and shape each half into a round loaf. Slash the tops of the loaves to stop the crusts splitting during baking, and set them on a lightly oiled baking sheet. At

ternatively use the dough to fill two small loaf tins.

"Your loaves can be baked right away. Or they can be left overnight, during which time some rising due to the yeast naturally present in the flour may occur. People talk about this rising reverently, but I have never had unyeasted breads rise during the night. One thing is true—the flavours blend overnight. Overnight unyeasted bread is richer tasting, has more body."

Bake the loaves in a pre-heated moderate oven (180°C/350°F, gas mark 4) for 1 1/2 hours. "Unyeasted bread is done when it is under-crisped and has a deep brown colour. If you're in any doubt about a loaf's being done, leave it in the oven longer. Unyeasted breads are almost never overbaked, but it's common to underbake them so the centre is uncooked."

To give your loaves a rich sheen rub them lightly with butter when they are hot from the oven. The taste and texture of this bread continues to improve for up to a week if the bread is stored in a bread crock or bin.

Julie Jordan's whole wheat pie crust makes pastry which is crisp, tender and full of flavour. I should confess here that I am not an expert pastry maker. Using traditional methods I make passable but undistinguished pastry. My face is saved by my Magimix food processor which does the job so quickly that my warm hands and hot kitchen play a negligible role in the business. The following recipe gives Julie Jordan's method with detailed instructions for rolling out the fragile dough. Whole wheat pastry flour is more finely ground than ordinary whole wheat flour. It is available in some health food shops, but if you cannot find it, the ordinary kind does very well.

Whole wheat pie crust

250 g (9 oz) whole wheat pastry flour

1 teaspoon sea salt

110 g (4 oz) butter

3 to 4 tablespoons cold water

Combine the flour and salt in a mixing bowl. Place the butter over the flour, and using a pastry blender or two forks, cut the butter into the flour until the largest pieces of butter are the size of small peas.

Sprinkle a small amount of water over some of the mixture and toss it lightly with a fork. Push the damp part to one side. Then add water to another portion and toss until all the

dough is dampened. Toss the dough gently during this process to hold the crust together, but not so much gluten that the dough will be tough.

Stir the mixture with firm strokes of the fork until the dough forms a ball that does not cling to the sides of the bowl.

Pick up the dough in your hands and press it together between cupped palms, turning it four times. Do not knead it. Press the dough into a flattened ball, building up the edges higher than the centre and pinching the edges together if it cracks.

Lightly flour a counter and your rolling pin. Brush aside any extra flour, leaving only a thin film.

Roll lightly, working from the centre to the outside, pinching the dough up and turning it occasionally so it doesn't stick. Flour the counter more if you need to. Roll until the diameter of the dough is 2.5 cm (1 inch) larger all round than your pie or quiche plate.

If the dough comes to pieces as you roll it, moisten the edges of the pieces and stick them back together.

Union quiche. Serves four to six.

1 recipe whole wheat pie crust

30g (1 oz) butter

2 large onions, thinly sliced

170g (6 oz) strong cheddar, grated

3 large eggs

300ml (1 pint) milk

Salt and freshly ground black pepper

Thyme or caraway seeds to taste

Line a 23cm (9 inch) quiche tin or dish with whole wheat pie crust. Prick the pastry with a fork and put it in the refrigerator to chill.

Melt the butter in a frying pan and cook the onions on a medium heat until they are soft and just beginning to brown. Spread the onions over the pastry and top with the grated cheese.

Beat together the eggs and milk. Season the custard to taste with pepper and salt and thyme or caraway seeds. Pour the custard into the shell and bake it in a preheated moderate oven (180°C/350°F, gas mark 4) for 40 minutes to 1 hour, until the top is golden and firm.

Although it takes longer to blind bake the pastry case before filling, I think the crispier result is worth it if you have time.

THEATRES

VAUGHANVILLE 8.15-10.05. 0988. 01-377 9944. 8.15-10.05. 0988. 01-377 9944. 8.15-10.05. 0988. 01-377 9944.

STAGE STRUCK. A comedy by C. D. Brown. 8.15-10.05. 0988. 01-37

Ronald Butt

The right recipe but the wrong method

It becomes clearer as each day passes that the Government's policy of economic control is a failure. What we are seeing is a conflict of powers, and when that happens, even the best of economic theories will be ineffective without the political will to make it operative.

The Government's present conflict with the unions has arisen because of the attempt by Sir Keith Joseph to put into practice in the public sector the market economics in which he passionately believes. These principles must surely now be accepted by most reasonable people as providing a more responsible basis for economic management than the butomonic pursuit of neo-Keynesianism which has brought us over the years to the point we are now in.

Unfortunately, however, the Government does not have a *tabula rasa* on which to write its economic policies. It has to start from where it is—and the question is how it gets from bad practices that cause no immediate trouble (even if they threaten the nation and its political system with ultimate ruin) to practices which at first cause deep hostility, and which, unless introduced with great skill, give the Government the opportunity to get out on to the streets and challenge the Government head on.

If there is a charge against Sir Keith Joseph and the management of British Steel it is not that their policy of cash limits is wrong, but that they applied it with an inflexible precision that played into the hands of their

opponents. The charge is further that the steel strike can now only be settled by a wage increase that will be higher than that with which the claim could have been settled earlier, and that the cost of the settlement alone, if it comes, will probably break the cash limits imposed on the industry by the Government—which makes a nonsense of the Government's fight for those cash limits.

The further charge is that even if the final settlement did not have this effect, the probability is that the actual cost to the industry of the stoppage so far will already have broken the cash limits—so that if the concept of cash limits were to be judged in strict business terms, its effect on British Steel's books would have to be accounted a costly commercial loss, for which the Government will eventually have to pay with public money.

But clearly, far from being simply a commercial judgment, Sir Keith's policy and tactics for steel (which is fully backed by Mrs Thatcher and by Treasury Ministers) is intended as a political action in defence of the Government's economic policies right across the board. The question, therefore, is whether as a political action these tactics are justified, and it is hard to believe that they are, bearing in mind the already visible consequences.

This is not to make heroes of the steelmen, whose leadership is undoubtedly weak, and whose leaders have now allowed themselves to drift into a position of fundamental irresponsibility.

Keith Joseph, Sir Geoffrey Howe and Mr Prior, he told them that what he

wanted was "new money", and when asked what he meant by that, he informed them that it meant money above the cost-of-living. Now it is irresponsible enough, in the present state of the nation and its industry, for the steelmen to demand (as they initially did) that their standard of living should be maintained, when it is plain that for a time the standard of living of the nation as a whole can and must fall. But to demand a rise in the steelmen's living standards when unemployment is rising and the steelmen's success could only be paid for by others who lose their jobs is the height of selfishness.

The steelmen then have nothing to be proud of. Yet we still have to ask (judging by the consequences of Sir Keith Joseph's stand) whether a more educative and less rigid application of the letter of his policy might not have served the real purposes of the policy better.

How can ministers try for the consent which is as much the basis of effective government as the law itself? In the *Right Approach to the Economy* well before the election, the Conservatives advanced the idea that a government should discuss the state of the nation with the unions regularly, and inform them broadly of what was economically feasible in terms of wages. In the Manifesto itself, this idea failed to attract notice, but it is natural, in a crisis like the present, that the idea of some kind of forum, in which such consultation could take place, should again come to mind.

It could, of course, do nothing at this stage to solve a solution of the steel strike, which can now only run

its course. And more generally the idea carries obvious dangers. There is the risk that in expressing its views of what level of wage increases are economically bearable, the Government would express its views in terms dangerously like the old norms—which it would then have to defend with the same risky rigidity as past governments have done.

Or again, the Government could find itself in a gigantic bargaining operation in which the unions would demand again to influence policy well outside their proper remit in exchange for a wage restraint that they would renounce soon after they have got what they wanted. Of course, the Government ought to talk to the unions more easily about economic policy generally than it has done and for that National Economic and Development Council (Neddy) is probably the right forum. It is favoured for that purpose by both Sir Geoffrey Howe and Mr Prior.

But it is not a substitute for proper consultation within each industry and each area of public employment individually, nor for the right sort of political sensitivity on the part of each minister who has wage bargaining (directly or indirectly) on his plate. Each sector of state employment from the heavy industries to the welfare services, presents a different problem and each, therefore, needs its own forum. This could be far more useful than creating out of Neddy a new inflation-talking shop which would only assist the striking of attitudes in a crisis.

For each area of public employment the Government should make its calculations about popular support, and it has been doing with the same callous opportunism as co-

fronted the Callaghan Government when it fell foul of some of the health service employees, the Government would surely be rescued by overwhelming public support. It would probably be the same in an irresponsible strike within the public utilities.

But with steel, it is dealing with a basic industry that is a near monopoly, any in which even commercial judgment is challenged as a political judgment. If the steel industry were nationalized, the Government could not possibly be in the position it is now in, and it baffles me why it did not immediately take up Mr Sire's suggestion that the parts scheduled for closure might be offered for private sale. (The official answer is that ministers did not want to get the closures mixed up with pay bargaining, but they have now apparently hinted to him that it might be considered.) And likewise, why does not the Government start moving towards a gradual sale to private ownership (not crudely or suddenly) of British Leyland? So long as the Government is responsible for loss-making industries, they will continue to make losses and the Government will be politically forced to make an effort to impose responsibility on them.

Philosophers in practical politics have seldom been successful, especially when they have tried to apply an ideal formula to an existing situation and existing problems. That is why Plato failed in Syracuse. New beginnings are a luxury that economists can afford to contemplate in their intellectual constructions—but not politicians. It is not the Government's economic ideas that are wrong but its manner of applying them.

Bernard Levin

To the devil with this English Disease

Back to the Festival Hall, this time for the Festival Hall, an opera I have been glimpsing out of, as it were, the corner of my ear for about 30 years without ever having heard it. It is a fascinating work and I shall have something to say about it in a moment, but first there is a little more to be said on the subject of programme notes; the ones for this performance avoided the glibberish I was castigating last week, but were hopelessly inadequate none the less.

The first, and worst, inadequacy was presumably not the responsibility of the note-writer: the programme ought to have included the entire libretto. It has been done before with concert performances of more familiar works, and should certainly have been done with this. It is possible that the owners of the rights were demanding a substantial fee for a reproduction, as they would have been entitled to do but, if so, the BBC, whose performance it was, should have paid it. The programme contained 76 pages, including the cover, and of these no fewer than 53 consisted entirely of advertisements, which must have brought in a tidy penny. Mind you, the programme was not confined to the BBC; after discovering that the programme contained no libretto, I went to the Festival Hall bookshop to buy one, only to be told that Breitkopf and Härtel (the publishers) had sold out their copies on sale-or-return terms, so the RFL had not ordered any at all. This, if you please, for a work which some 1,500 people in a house of some 1,500 could possibly have been familiar with, and for which a sale of a couple of hundred copies would therefore have been certain.

This depressingly familiar provincialism was made worse by the absurd sketchiness of the synopsis hidden away among the advertisements for building societies, fur coats, drink, finance-houses, motor-cars, banks and furniture, not to mention the page-and-a-half devoted to photographs of conductors not involved in any way with the performance. The last sentence of the programme notes read: "In an age of sensationalism, Busoni's spiritual testament is bound to be revealed and discovered only gradually". I can only say that many of those concerned had certainly done their bit to put off the day as long as possible.

But the mysterious strength of the music, and the drama in it, worked nevertheless; partly, perhaps even mainly,

because of the strength and drama of the story itself, one of the two dominant archetypal legends of the Renaissance world. (Faust makes his first recognizable appearance around the middle of the sixteenth century, Don Juan some 80 years later.) It is not surprising that Faust (there was a real Dr. Faust, with a distinct whiff of brimstone clinging to him) has attracted opera composers, as well as playwrights, novelists and short-story writers, for the starkness of the choice, and the inexorability of the trafficker's fate, are the very stuff from which the nation of operas is made. No doubt Mr Harold Rosenthal knows of at least 50 operatic Fausts, and can sing fully half of them from end to end, but most of us will have to be content with three versions: Gounod's, Boito's and Busoni's. Gounod's, used to be the mainstay of every Covent Garden season, but it had not been done for decades when the Royal Opera revived it a few years ago; I was in much trepidation, and was disappointed, and delighted at the degree of my enjoyment, not all of it attributable only to the fact that the Greater Fabled Kiri-bird was in the cast. The production vanished with Faustian abruptness, however, and has been seen since by moral men.

Boito's *Mefistofele* I regard as a far superior work. I have never seen it on the stage (surely it would be a certain winner for the EX. con.) but there have been two memorable concert performances of it in recent years, the first with Cesare Siepi, one of the two finest Don Giovanni's I have ever heard (did I tell you that I actually shook hands with the greatest of them all, John Brownlee, one night in Gerard Evans's dressing-room?), the second with the man who sang the Devil's role in the Covent Garden Faust, and produced some almost incredible ham acting in doing so. (At one point, when he was rolling about on the floor, he struck his head right into the prompter's box, thus causing the startled repetition of the EX. con., but he refused to announce afterwards that he was going to bring a water-pistol to the next performance and play it vigorously if there should be any more of such carryings-on.) He carried a good deal of ribald comment among those used to a somewhat more sophisticated style of operatic performance, whereupon the poor fellow went back of the scenes and (possibly from chagrin) promptly fell down dead. (In the concert version of *Mefistofele*, with no opportunity to



Cesare Siepi, one of the two finest Don Giovanni's...

"act", he was excellent; *De mias...* That earlier performance of *Mefistofele* in the Festival Hall provided one of the most charming operatic vignettes in my opera-going experience. The version, as in Gounod's, Faust escapes his due; indicates his rage at seeing the quarry slip through his fingers by punctuating the final celestial chorus with a series of piercing commissionaire's cab-whistles, but Siepi, it seemed, could whistle at any rate in the electric mode called for. So one of the youngest girls in the chorus (I pictured the scene at rehearsal, with the chorus-master asking if anybody could whistle—no doubt expecting a sturdy bass with a beard to volunteer; only to see the most innocent maiden in the ranks, blushing fiercely, put her hand up and shyly confess that she could do a bit in that line) stood in for him, and vibrantly came close to burying her lungs in full view of a packed Festival Hall, as with two fingers in the corners of her mouth, and her face turning a vivid shade of purple, she emitted a series of screeches that would have had the Queen Mary's scream struck dumb with envy and mortification.

Busoni's operatic version is far more austere than those of either his French or his Italian

Did you avoid being eliminated?

Readers may like to see the explanation of the solution of The Times Crossword Championship eliminator No. 15149, published yesterday.

Across: 1 The Two Dogs (Barnes) Caesar & Lush. 2 (half of "it") in HAUL (loot) backwards. 4 Grimaldi, name of cat. 5 ANG of KING round RIMA (Budan's girl in Green Mansions) and L (student). 6 Confab in Spenser's Faerie Queen. 7 ANG of LC (F100) & FOR plus AMBO (polip). 10 Creel. C (caught) EEL (fish) with R (right) inside. 11 Latin sounds like Eye at track. 12 joyous. 13 Lord Tennyson's title of the King (Arthur). 14 Vice green meaning "acting for another". 15 ANG of GREECE in VINT of sort of Russian bridge (cards). 16 Dieb. "One retired". One in bed. 17 "last" - usual cryptic & Crispian. 18 "last" - usual cryptic & Crispian. 19 20 Conrabent, a contractor (or agreeing) party. 21 CONTENT round RAHU minus its tail. 22 Crispian. The patron saint of shoemakers (hence "last" - usual cryptic & Crispian). 23 Henry V Crispian is also called Crispian. 24 Knoll. White Knoll's song, Ch 8 in Through the Looking-Glass. 25 Awest. 26 Tolkien's The Lord of the Rings Treebeard was the name of "an Ent". 27 Knoll. 28 Awest. 29 Awest. 30 Cosmology. 31 Awest. 32 Awest. 33 Awest. 34 Awest. 35 Awest. 36 Awest. 37 Awest. 38 Awest. 39 Awest. 40 Awest. 41 Awest. 42 Awest. 43 Awest. 44 Awest. 45 Awest. 46 Awest. 47 Awest. 48 Awest. 49 Awest. 50 Awest. 51 Awest. 52 Awest. 53 Awest. 54 Awest. 55 Awest. 56 Awest. 57 Awest. 58 Awest. 59 Awest. 60 Awest. 61 Awest. 62 Awest. 63 Awest. 64 Awest. 65 Awest. 66 Awest. 67 Awest. 68 Awest. 69 Awest. 70 Awest. 71 Awest. 72 Awest. 73 Awest. 74 Awest. 75 Awest. 76 Awest. 77 Awest. 78 Awest. 79 Awest. 80 Awest. 81 Awest. 82 Awest. 83 Awest. 84 Awest. 85 Awest. 86 Awest. 87 Awest. 88 Awest. 89 Awest. 90 Awest. 91 Awest. 92 Awest. 93 Awest. 94 Awest. 95 Awest. 96 Awest. 97 Awest. 98 Awest. 99 Awest. 100 Awest. 101 Awest. 102 Awest. 103 Awest. 104 Awest. 105 Awest. 106 Awest. 107 Awest. 108 Awest. 109 Awest. 110 Awest. 111 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Stock Exchange Prices

Equities drift lower

ACCOUNT DAYS : Dealings Began, Feb 11. Dealings End, Feb 22. § Contango Day, Feb 25. Settlement Day, March 3
§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days:

WORLD WARM AIR HAN DRYER

ILLUSTRATED BROCHURE & PRICES FROM WARNER HOWA-PEARL ASS. HOUSE-125 EDGWARE RD-LONDON W2 2HX (01-27-)

[illegible]

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

هكذا من الأخبار

Bryant
Industrial
Construction
021 704 5111

Stock markets
FT Ind 458.3 down 3.5
FT Gats 65.96 unchanged

Sterling
\$ 227.95 up 75 points
Index 72.5 up 0.2

Dollar
Index 85.7 down 0.1

Gold
\$ 627.5 down \$21

Money
3-mth sterling 17 1/2
3-mth Euro-5 15 1/2
6-mth Euro-5 15 1/2

Writs delay final 84p Rolls-Royce dividend

The final 84p net dividend per £1 ordinary stock planned by the liquidators of Rolls-Royce (Realisations) last October may not be forthcoming for three years. It could, however, be paid in one year.

The distribution was held up by writs issued against R-R and others in connection with a Caravelle aircraft crash in 1976 in Bombay. A sum of \$5p a share has already been paid. The liquidators think the claim is without merit.

Meanwhile the money involved stays on deposit earning 17 1/2 per cent, which pays for correspondence and upkeep of the share register.

Tung bid question
M.C.Y. Tung's Hongkong company, Oceanic Container, is reportedly preparing to pay up to 500p a share for Furness Withy if the Monopolies Commission agrees. A move is being made to get the present 360p a share cash bid referred. A question has been asked on the subject to Mr John Nott, Secretary for Trade.

Armitage offer
Sir Rowland Wright, Blue Circle Industries chairman, says there is no reason why the group's £31m offer for Armitage-Shanks should be altered in any way. Ceramics investments, with a 28 per cent stake, is refusing the offer. Armitage-Shanks is now at 55p, compared to the 99p offer price.

Vosper contract
Vosper Thornycroft (UK), part of the state-owned British Shipbuilders, has won a £4.5m contract to design and build a new boiler house for the Orreave Works of British Steel (Chemicals) at Sheffield.

Copper price tumbles
Selling by speculators forced copper prices down on the London Metal Exchange yesterday. Cash wire has closed 555 down on the day at £1.215 per tonne and three-month futures were also 555 down at £1.232.50. Since last Friday the cash wire bar price has dropped £114 per tonne.

Companies Bill delays
The report stage of the Companies Bill will probably be next Tuesday and Wednesday and will immediately be followed by the third reading. The Bill's progress is likely to be hampered by its 400 amendments, 150 of which have been submitted by the Government.

British Steel accused
British Steel has been accused of mismanaging pay negotiations with 3,000 workers in its chemical subsidiary, Warrington, of the General and Municipal Workers' Union, says that British Steel withdrew from the national negotiating machinery and sought to impose its own settlement. Talks are continuing.

Philippine order
Cryopants, part of BOC International, has won a \$2m order to supply an oxygen plant and nitrogen liquefier for a complex at Laguna, south of Manila, in the Philippines.

Earnings rise by 19.6 pc in full year to outstrip retail price index

By Caroline Atkinson
Pay rises appear to have accelerated and the average increase is set to rise sharply above last year's figure. In the year to December, average earnings went up by 19.6 per cent, according to official figures published yesterday. The January rise is likely to go over 20 per cent.

The figures were said in Whitehall to be a "dreadful warning to the country" and the Government is disappointed at the wages have risen since it took office.

There is growing concern about the prospects for inflation in the coming months, given the rapid earnings rise. Ministers are keen to emphasize that big pay awards will lead to higher inflation and fewer jobs.

However, their message has clearly not got home to union wage bargainers, most of whom are anxious to ensure that their members get pay rises which at least keep up with the rate of inflation.

Earnings rises outstripped price rises in the year to December, because the retail price index climbed by 17.2 per cent. Most forecasters expect price inflation to reach 20 per cent this year.

There were two special factors pushing up the earnings rise in December, but even after taking account of these, the figures suggest that the underlying rate of wage increases has been creeping up steadily.

Back pay is thought to have boosted the annual earnings increase in December by about 2 per cent. On top of that, the figures have been affected by earlier settlements.

Last year many pay negotiations were delayed as people waited for the outcome of the Commons vote on the Labour Government's sanctions for breaches of pay policy, and to see the face of that 5 per cent policy. This depressed earnings at the end of 1978 and beginning of 1979 and so, raised the year-on-year change. It is thought to have added about 3 per cent to the December annual earnings rise.

The underlying level of earnings is thought to be just under 19 per cent in the 12 months to December. For the last three months of 1979, the underlying annual increases rose steadily from just under 17 per cent in October, to about 18 per cent in November, and then just under 19 per cent a month later.

According to figures released yesterday by the Confederation of British Industry, wage deals since August have ranged from 5 per cent to 22 per cent. Of 277 settlements, covering 800 manufacturers, more than two-thirds of the settlements are for less than 17 per cent and more than half for less than 15 per cent. But it is not clear how many workers are covered by the lower settlements.

January's figures will almost certainly look even worse than December's. Last year the index fell in January under the impact of the road haulage even if earnings remained unchanged between December, 1978, and last month, the year-on-year rate of increase would show a rise to more than 20 per cent.

This should probably come back down a little towards the end of the pay round, though latest Treasury forecasts for earnings are thought to predict a rise of nearly 20 per cent by the end of this summer.

The Clegg awards for comparability in the public sector are expected to add about an extra 2 per cent to wages. Some of these are now coming into the index.

These figures cover about 21 million employees. The series is too new for seasonal adjustment, so the older narrower series covering about 11 million employees, mostly in production industries, gives a better guide to month-to-month movements in earnings. This showed a rise of 2 per cent in December, up from the November figure of 1.7 per cent.

As this series mostly covers private sector workers, it gives some indication of whether pay awards in the private and public sectors are diverging much. The year-on-year rise in December in the old series moved up to 19 per cent from 18.5 per cent in November. It suggests that private sector pay rises are running a little behind those in the public sector.

Kuwait cuts output by 25 pc

By Our Energy Correspondent
Kuwait has finally decided to cut its oil production by 25 per cent in the million barrels a day from April 1.

Sheikh Ali Khalifa al-Sabah, the Kuwait oil minister, announced the government's decision on the eve of the meeting of the long-term strategy committee of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, which begins in London today. The level of supplies over coming years is the main item on the agenda.

Kuwait's decision is the first indication that the Opec members are going to cut back production to prevent their prices being eroded by a glut of oil.

On its own, it may not be sufficient to prevent production from running ahead of demand, but it is a significant step towards a growing understanding that the common interest is to keep production to a level where prices are maintained.

Discussion within the long-term strategy committee will concentrate on a report which recommends ways of controlling prices in a stable manner.

The central idea is to link prices to quarterly changes in worldwide inflation and currency fluctuations, and then to raise them in line with percentage changes in the real growth in Organization for Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) gross national products.

It is agreed that this would be a fair way of moving into a world of greater energy shortages for both Opec and the industrialized world, but with member states still in disagreement over the present price, the chances of the long-term strategy committee's ideas being put into practice in the near future are nil.

Vosper plea to MPs over compensation

By Richard Allen
Vosper, the shipbuilding group, whose British yards were nationalised nearly three years ago, has appealed to its shareholders and all Conservative MPs for help in settling the group's long-running battle over compensation.

In the letter to shareholders, Sir John Vosper says that the group will take its case to the European Court of Human Rights if negotiations fail to achieve a satisfactory result.

A Vosper director said last night that the group was still hopeful that current negotiations would reach a fair outcome even though all offers so far from the Government had been completely unacceptable.

In the letter to MPs, Sir John reminds Conservatives of some of their criticisms of compensation terms when opposing the Labour Government's Aircraft and Shipbuilding Industries Act.

Vosper's Thornycroft warship yards represented assets of more than £25m when they were taken over in July 1977. So far the Government has offered compensation of £5.5m and the group has only received £1.4m by way of payment on account. Negotiations are complicated by the fact that under the terms of the 1977 Act, compensation must be based broadly on average stock market values between 1973 and 1974. This system, which was condemned by the Conservatives in opposition, had the effect of working to the advantage of certain groups whose yards were making losses at the time of valuation, while working against groups like Vosper-Yarrow, and in the case of aerospace, Vickers and GEC.

Vosper-Thornycroft made £10.7m pre-tax profit last year—more than twice the compensation being offered.

Compensation has yet to be reached on this compensation for the British Aircraft Corporation, on which former owners Vickers and GEC have placed a price-tag of £200m.

Meanwhile Yarrow in which Vosper has a 23 per cent stake is considering going to arbitration on its claim for compensation in the region of £15-£20m.

In his letter to shareholders, Sir John says it is regrettable that the advent of a Conservative Government has not resulted in a satisfactory outcome and he urges shareholders to increase pressure by writing to MPs, including Sir Keith Joseph, the Secretary of State for Industry.

Merger redundancies
Merger of City stockbrokers J. & A. Springe and Kemp-Gee is expected to take place on April 1. Although the two firms originally claimed that there would be few redundancies it is now likely that around 100 of Springe's 350 employees will have to go.

Truck sales up 10 pc
Commercial vehicle sales in Britain last month continued their upward trend, and at 24,090 were 10.2 per cent higher than a year earlier. Imports accounted for 23.6 per cent of sales against 21.42 per cent in January, 1979.

Lucas in £11m French acquisition

By Michael Prest
Thomson-Lucas, the French associate of Lucas Industries, has paid £11m for control of Bronzavia, a French manufacturer of aircraft components. The purchase is a significant step in Lucas's expansion of its European interests.

Bronzavia is a private company, made pretax profits of £1m in the year to the end of December. It will now be merged with Auxilux, another subsidiary of Thomson-Lucas which makes aerospace parts. The new Thomson-Lucas group will have a turnover of about £440m (£42.9m) a year. Lucas Industries made pretax profits of £70.7m in 1979.

Lucas Industries holds 49 per cent of Thomson-Lucas, the rest being in the hands of Thomson-Bronzavia, a French electronics group. In his annual report to shareholders last December, Sir Bernard Scott, Lucas's chairman, said the group needed a larger European foothold.

Last night Lucas declined to say how much of Bronzavia the French associate holds, except that it is a controlling interest. Lucas confirmed, however, that Thomson-Lucas has an option, which may be exercised soon, to buy the remainder of Bronzavia on undisclosed terms.

Bronzavia, which has two factories employing 1,200 people

MPs told of reactor safety 'unease'

By Nicholas Hirst
Sir Alan Cottrell, a former government chief scientific adviser and one of the most respected metallurgists in the United Kingdom, told a House of Commons select committee yesterday that the Department of Energy was wrong to go ahead with establishing the American-designed pressurised water reactor (PWR) for Britain's nuclear power needs.

Using the accident at Harrisburg in the United States last year to illustrate what he regarded as inherent weaknesses in the PWR reactor, Sir Alan told the Select Committee on Energy that he was "uneasy" about the safety of the system.

His unease stemmed from the fact that cooling water was stored under pressure in a PWR to keep it from boiling. Any sudden loss of this coolant could result in a dangerous situation, he said.

He refused, however, to be drawn into saying that it would be impossible to operate a PWR safely. His concern was with the possibility of potentially dangerous cracks forming in the essential pressure vessels which encased the radioactive core, the problems in tracing cracks when they occurred, and, in the event of disaster, the speed with which operators would be forced to react.

Cracks of lin in a pressure vessel would be difficult to detect by today's very high

weight when they come to write their report on the British nuclear programme.

Mr David Howell, the Secretary of State for Energy, committed Britain, in a statement to Parliament last December, to building at least one PWR, providing the design passed safety criteria and a public inquiry. The statement also promised the building of nuclear power stations at the rate of about one a year for 10 years.

Sir Alan considered that it did not make sense in commercial terms to build one PWR unless a series were planned. It is generally understood that this is exactly what is intended.

The change from the British-designed AGR was, according to Sir Alan, unnecessary. It had many merits, was understood by British engineers and should be continued.

He refused, however, to be drawn into saying that it would be impossible to operate a PWR safely. His concern was with the possibility of potentially dangerous cracks forming in the essential pressure vessels which encased the radioactive core, the problems in tracing cracks when they occurred, and, in the event of disaster, the speed with which operators would be forced to react.

Cracks of lin in a pressure vessel would be difficult to detect by today's very high

standard of ultra-sonic testing, yet cracks so small could suddenly spread without warning, leading to a disintegration of the reactor and a possible disaster.

Cracks of lin had been found in French PWRs. These posed no safety dangers, but would do if they were to become larger. This could create an agonizing choice as the technology for mending cracks of one inch or more in a radioactive vessel was not yet available.

"Government would be faced with a most difficult decision", Sir Alan wrote in his memorandum, "either to take the chance of running the reactor knowing that it contained such cracks or to shut down the reactor at a fraction of its planned economic life."

Sir Alan believed that the scientific evidence he worked on was little different to that used by Sir Walter Marshall, deputy chairman of United Kingdom Energy Authority, whose report on OWRs was favourable to their introduction.

Where the two men differed was on their assessments of the difficulties involved in the engineering and human elements in running the system. Sir Alan agreed with a committee member that running a PWR was comparable with maintaining a large civil aircraft.

But before PWRs were built



Sir Alan Cottrell: Government would be wrong to go ahead with establishing PWRs.

US faces 'Herculean' energy challenge

From Frank Vogl
Washington, Feb 20
Meeting America's energy challenges would involve investment outlays on a scale and of a scope not seen since the United States launched the Marshall Plan after the Second World War, Mr William Miller, Secretary of the Treasury, said in a speech in Texas.

The capital required will dwarf the Marshall Plan and the Apollo (space) programme combined, he said.

It would take at least 10 to 15 years for the United States to change its energy habits, and ensure the nation's security and economic vitality. Living standards in America would have to be cut in the short term and the energy transition would be a "Herculean undertaking".

Mr Miller said the United States needed "a massive and sustained" energy conservation effort and it must radically re-examine its transport system, its inefficient cars and greatly expanded public transport networks. He stressed that vast spending would have to be made to develop conventional and unconventional oil and renewable domestic energy sources.

The Department of Energy estimates that the domestic oil and gas industry would have to invest an annual average of \$25,000m to \$30,000m this decade on exploration, development and production, just to meet the industry's minimum supply projections. Some private estimates indicated the costs would be at least \$35,000m which compared with actual spending in 1978 of \$20,000m.

Coal industry investment would also have to surge dramatically. The Energy Department estimated annual spending would have to be between \$5,000m and \$6,000m this decade, compared with just \$2,400m in 1978.

Insurance policy against strikes may be organized by CBI

By Patricia Tisdall
Management Correspondent
Proposals to enable employers to insure against strikes were presented to the policy-making council of the Confederation of British Industry yesterday.

The proposals, which are the result of six months' work by a steering group led by Sir Alex Jarratt, are for a mutual fund administered by a CBI-sponsored company to offer insurance cover against the effects of strikes.

Detailed consultations start with regional CBI councils and with members from today. The results of this are due to be presented to the full council in April and it will then be asked to take a final decision.

A controversial aspect of the scheme is that the fund should be located in an offshore tax haven, probably Guernsey. The group's argument is that this would avoid the complex legal problems which British legal complexities would otherwise delay the start well beyond the target date of this autumn.

Sir John Hedley Greenborough, the CBI president said yesterday that most of the 120

companies whose views have been sought prior to the council meeting had expressed interest. The fund would use participating companies' contributions. If their operations were closed down as a result of industrial action by their own workers or as a result of action by those of another employer.

Cover would also be given if production was affected by the closure of a primary supplier or customer. The fund would cover standing charges for 50 days of non-working after the first seven days of closure.

By building in such limitations, the proposals believe that even industrial strikes such as the present steel dispute could be afforded at acceptable premium levels. The only eventuality which could not be covered is a national strike affecting such services as water, gas and electricity.

Nationalised industries could not be members of the scheme but all other CBI members would be invited to join on a voluntary basis. The fact that it would operate across all industry sectors distinguishes

the CBI strike fund proposals from others such as that operated by the Engineering Employers' Federation, which is confined to a single industry. The premiums will be worked out to a complex formula depending on the size of the workforce, the location of the plant, the number of unions and past strike record.

Many companies are sceptical about the feasibility of such a scheme. Others are concerned that it may be regarded as provocative by trade unions. Industrialists are also extremely reluctant to subsidise companies which have ineffective labour relations and some would regard the fund as a charter for bad personnel management.

However, the prospects for getting the fund started have been helped enormously by the increase in secondary industrial disruption in recent years. The CBI looked at similar schemes in 1971 and again in 1975 but the problem had been getting enough employers with good industrial relations records to participate and spread the insurance risk.

EEC draft on company law rejected

By David Wood
Draft legislation on EEC company law prepared by the Commission eight years ago was thrown out by the legal affairs committee of the European Parliament meeting in Brussels yesterday.

The fifth company law directive, as the Commission's draft is known, in effect tried to transplant a German form of worker participation on company boards in the Community, envisaging a two-tier system with at least one third of the supervisory board appointed by the workers.

The Parliamentary committee's report, in the words of Mr Amédée Turner QC, spokesman for the British Democrats group, completely rewrites the text. It would allow unitary boards to continue in member countries that prefer them.

But it also proposes, to the liking of Britain, Italy and France, that companies should have a new institution analogous to a works council "elected by secret ballot" of "all employees". Such a body would have the right to consultation on closures and transfers of the whole or substantial parts of an undertaking and consultation on substantial curtailment or extension of activities, substantial organizational changes, or establishing and terminating long-term cooperation with other companies.

Into the shredder, page 21

Gold slides in wake of strong dollar

By Our Economics Staff
Gold fell sharply yesterday to its lowest level since early January. It closed down \$21 at \$627.5. The price fell to just above \$600 earlier in the day.

The price has been undermined by the recent strengthening of the dollar, with higher American interest rates, and by the prospect of the release of the hostages in Iran. Selling was heaviest in New York. But dealers do not expect the level to fall below \$600 an ounce.

The dollar stayed fairly strong yesterday after its rise on Tuesday, despite the announcement in Switzerland of the relaxation of measures to keep money out of Swiss francs. The Swiss Government has lifted a ban on Swiss banks paying interest on foreign deposits with effect from today.

The Swiss National Bank said that it was to ease present restrictions on foreigners buying Swiss francs. The move was part of the switch of policy in Switzerland away from trying to hold down the value of the

franc, towards more emphasis on fighting inflation.

The Swiss franc rose briefly against other currencies in Europe and the dollar on the news. High dollar interest rates are thought to have weakened the currency recently. The Swiss bank is now determined to bring inflation down below 5 per cent in 1980.

Interest rates were generally moving upwards yesterday in the wake of the sharp tightening of credit in the United States. In France, Belgium and Holland short term rates rose.

In Japan short term rates have risen sharply with the Bank of Japan guiding some markets up unofficially. After the one point rise in the official discount rate on Monday three Japanese commercial banks raised their short term prime rates to 7 1/2 per cent. Sterling did not suffer yesterday because of the erosion of its interest rate advantage. The rejection of a strike by British Leyland workers gave a boost to the pound early in the day and it closed 1 cent higher at \$2.795 against the dollar.

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THE POUND

Rises

Brent Chem Int	9p to 233p	Nitrate Explor	10p to 500p
Burmah Oil	5p to 222p	Poly Pack	2p to 18p
De Vere Hotels	5p to 220p	Securitor	4p to 110p
Hoechst	5p to 210p	Steep Rock	6p to 174p
Jones (Econet)	15p to 235p	Winstar & City	2p to 43p

Rises

Carpet Int	23p to 30p	Middle Wits	30p to 460p
Carrion Int	13p to 16p	MMH Eds	25p to 270p
Gillett Bros	34p to 190p	Platinum	1p to 10p
Laboron	14p to 52 1/2	Rio Tinto Zinc	20p to 438p
Messias Trans	16p to 210p	W Rand Cons	50p to 815p

PRICE CHANGES

	Bank	Bank	Bank	Bank
	buys	sells	buys	sells
Australia \$	30.00	26.00	Norway Kr	11.50
Austria Sch	69.00	65.00	Portugal Esc	109.50
Belgium Fr	2.69	2.62	South Africa Rd	1.96
Canada \$	12.83	12.28	Spain Ptas	156.25
Denmark Kr	8.80	8.40	Sweden Kr	9.80
Finland Mk	9.50	9.20	Switzerland Fr	3.30
France F	4.16	3.94	US \$	3.33
Germany DM	89.50	84.50	Rygosla Dnr	54.00
Greece Dr	11.55	10.95		
Hongkong \$	1.11	1.07		
Ireland P	1940.00	1850.00		
Italy Lira	581.00	556.00		
Japan Yen	4.57	4.34		
Netherlands Gld				

Tough line to make sure market-related prices are paid for new finds Government set to step on the gas corporation

The Government is determined that British Gas should pay market-related prices for any new gas finds in the North Sea to revitalize exploration and development.

Oil companies report that the corporation has been showing greater willingness to pay higher prices which will guarantee an acceptable return on new finds, in contrast to the contracts signed more than 10 years ago which the companies have complained were so mean that further exploration was stifled.

It is unlikely that Shell, as a leader of a four-company consortium, would consider developing a new southern

North Sea gas field unless it was confident of receiving a price for its gas far closer to the oil price equivalent than has been available from British Gas in the past.

But should the corporation waver, the Government is fully prepared to force it to follow the Conservative philosophy on energy policy that wherever possible, the market should act as decision maker. The move to pricing at oil-related levels has already been established in sales by British Gas to industry.

It is logical, ministers believe, that if British Gas charges market rates to the consumer, it should also pay them to the developers, the oil companies.

This amounts to a significant change in policy from the previous administration and will be widely welcomed by the oil industry which, with demand for gas rising, will have every incentive for new exploration and to develop smaller accumulations already discovered.

The greater profits made by the companies will, unlike profits from contracts on the early fields, be subject to petroleum revenue tax. This, the Government argues, will recoup the "economic rent" to which the country is entitled when new gas is received in the profits of British Gas.

New gas production from the North Sea is urgently sought to meet the increasing proportion of United Kingdom energy re-

DAEJAN HOLDINGS LIMITED

INTERIM STATEMENT
Unaudited Results for the Half Year ended 30th September, 1979

	6 months to 30/9/79 £'000	6 months to 30/9/78 £'000
Rental Income and Charges Receivable, less Property Outgoings	2,468	1,905
Surplus on Sales of Properties	3,279	3,977
Other Income	146	101
Financing Charges and Other Expenses	5,893	5,983
Exceptional provision for Property Outgoings	2,963	2,833
Group Profit before Taxation	2,930	2,150
Less Taxation	1,050	945
Less Minority Interests	8	10
	£1,872	£1,195
Earnings per Share	11.49p	7.33p

An interim dividend of 1.225p per share (1978-1.1725p—same gross payment) will be paid on 28th March, 1980, to shareholders registered on 29th February, 1980. For the full year to March, 1980, it is expected that profits before taxation and before special provisions will be at a similar level to those achieved in the previous year.



I am, but not in the way
 imagined by Merrett and
 Sykes. It is flawed because
 the bearing adjustment is calcu-
 lated without any reference
 whatever to rates of inflation
 and this, in an adjustment
 which seeks to adjust for infla-
 tion, is simply absurd. The cor-
 rect method of calculating the
 bearing adjustment is extre-
 mely simple and has been set
 out in my submission to the
 A.S.C.

Yours faithfully,
 D. WOODHAM,
 Rtg.
 4 Manor Drive,
 Hiltilton, Yarm.
 Cleveland.

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Carrington counts the cost of imports

Carrington Viyella's profits for 1979 look bad enough on an historic cost basis; on a current cost basis they would look a good deal worse. For instance the dividend, which has been more than halved to the point at which the 6.9 per cent yield at 16p is more than twice covered by reported earnings, would almost certainly not be covered on any reasonable assumptions on the replacement cost of assets.

But then, Carrington Viyella is not alone. Where the company does differ from most of the rest of British industry is in its very high dependence on a home market vulnerable to imports—and particularly imports from the "Mediterranean associates" over whose trade activities the EEC has very little control. Hence the loss of last year's four closures, which in all cost £2.4m above the line, and another £1.77m in expenses on liquidation plus the loss on disposal of the Italian subsidiary Carrington-Testi) below it.

In consequence of these losses, and of the 42 per cent increase in interest charges to £8.37m, though profits on a comparable basis are down by a mere £500,000 at the trading level, at the attributable level they amount to only £4.5m as against £10.92m.

The expenses of closure have helped send short term borrowings sharply higher; but working capital requirements should decline this year, and since capital spending too has been slashed, apart from seasonal fluctuations it is unlikely that gearing will rise much above the 52 per cent recorded at the year end. This implies that CV will survive; but are there any signs that it will flourish?

In several areas—notably outerwear and Dorma—Carrington Viyella in fact did well last year, thanks very largely to a policy of going up-market to beat the competition. Conditions are likely to be even less favourable this year than they were last—which in part explains the decision to slash the dividend; but given elimination of last year's closure costs the company should be able to produce pre-tax profits comparable to the £3.5m of 1979. That, however, doesn't leave much room for an improvement in the dividend in the short term. Anyone buying Carrington Viyella for recovery is likely to have to wait a long time for it.

Discount house.

The experience of Gillett

It has not taken long for last month's speculative interest in discount houses to die away and the sector had another thin time yesterday despite the stronger tone of gilt-edged on hopes that containment of the PSBR to below £9,000m next year could provide the Chancellor with more scope to allow interest rates to fall.

Inevitably, Gillett had the hardest time with its shares sliding 34p to 150p. No one of course has been expecting other than grisly results from houses with year-ends coming soon after last November's 3 point MLR rise.

Alexanders' after tax loss last month even after transfers from reserves was a grim reminder of the exposure to losses of those houses which, unlike Union Discount, decided to chance their arm on a fall in rates. So Gillett's halved after tax profits of £111,000, again after transfer from its hidden reserves, were no worse than feared.

What was not expected, especially after Alexanders' decision to pay an uncovered dividend, was Gillett's two-thirds cut in the final "to maintain resources".

With profit comparisons between the house made difficult by inadequate disclosure, dividend growth has become the main yardstick for judging their relative merit and with Gillett's overall dividend falling from 25.3p to 15p a share goes the 7.9 per cent yield is still slightly below par for the sector.

Wrong-footed by the rise in MLR, Gillett has also not gained much benefit from being one of the most diversified of the houses. The important Kirkland Whitaker money broking side has had its contribution cut by start-up costs in New York and Bahrain while the difficulties of building up the fund management division launched only two years ago has forced the group to cut its losses there as well.

At the moment discount houses are making useful running margins thanks to the

high yield on commercial bills although Gillett, as also Union shows in its annual report, has almost withdrawn from the sterling and dollar certificates of deposit market.

So far as gilt-edged goes, the houses are only using the market for trading opportunities. Both Gillett and Union are taking a very cautious stance about the course of interest rates this year. Judging by the size of their respective balance-sheets both are almost fully invested although that is largely due to the rapid growth of acceptances as a result of the corset restrictions. But the bill book is still short—£5.5 days at Gillett and 40 at Union—and the houses will not easily fall again for any false trail laid by the authorities over interest rates. It is still too early to think about buying the shares.

W. H. Smith

Financing Christmas

On the face of it, W. H. Smith's explanation for asking shareholders to authorize an increase in borrowing limits is straightforward enough. The group is invariably awash with cash—£22m at the last balance sheet—but in the run-up to the crucial Christmas trading period inflation has meant that stock financing has pushed short-term borrowings ever closer to the group's limit under existing articles.

At the moment the ceiling dictated by share capital is only around £43m and Smith wants to switch to a more normal limit equal to 14 times capital and reserves which would currently allow borrowings of up to £131m.

The market, however, took the cynical view, wargaged that Smith is limbering up for further expansion following the £12m cash takeover of LCP Homocentres last spring, and lopped 9p from the shares at 151p as a gesture.

Smith says another takeover is out of the question although the suspicion lingers that it may be no bad thing for the group to keep its options open at the moment.

Facing saturation at home, the group's much-heralded invasion of Scotland may not amount to much unless Smith could run Menzies out of the High Street while LCP may not have quite enough muscle as yet to make a real splash in the increasingly competitive DIY business.

As a sweetener to preference holders Smith intends to raise the coupons from 4.9 per cent to 5.75 per cent, 3.15 per cent to 3.75 per cent and 4.25 per cent to 4.75 per cent, respectively. Such is current gearing that additional financing costs will be a mere £6,000 a year.

● Rascal's share price fell by 5p to 211p yesterday when the market received a sharp reminder that the institutions and other large Decca shareholders whose irrevocable acceptances of Rascal's offer won the day over GEC last week did not guarantee to take Rascal paper.

Rascal paid out £3.5m earlier this week for the block representing just over 8 per cent of Decca's ordinary capital owned by the Dumensteins. The price of 600p a share still compares unfavourably with the paper offer now worth 633p a share, but other Decca shareholders will be watching the performance of Rascal's share price and trying to gauge its performance over the next year as it digests Decca in coming to their decision about whether to take cash or equity.

At this stage, though, Rascal has to remain fairly relaxed. Even if there is a heavy call on its cash alternatives—which would be funded internally and through bank finance—it can reckon on releasing a fair amount of cash from Decca early on.

The sale of the television business and the successful outcome of a patent claim in the United States courts (which Decca stands a good chance of winning) could alone yield almost £30m, representing around half Decca's debt.

Still, Rascal is going to end up rather more highly geared than has been the case in the past. If all Decca shareholders took cash it would be around 60 per cent geared, and a bullish profits forecast from Rascal in the offer document should convince many Decca shareholders that Rascal remains a good medium to long term investment.

Economic notebook

Can Britain buck the interest rate trend?

We have been living with ultra high nominal interest rates for some time in the United Kingdom. It has taken a dreadfully long time for these rates to make any impact on the private sector's appetite for credit, but there does at last seem to be signs that the pips are finally starting to be squeezed. Certainly, the overall bank lending figures hardly seem to confirm this so far, but banks are now reporting a marked deceleration in the rate of increase in personal sector loan demand. If that trend is sustained, it should not be too long before manufacturers start to de-stock and run down what is extremely costly borrowing indeed.

But while the Government may be hoping that it will be able to offer the prospect of some fall in interest rates later this spring, or certainly by early summer, interest rates overseas appear to have started off on a new round of increases.

Rates in the United States look set to test the peaks established last autumn. Rates have also been rising in Japan and across Europe. How long or how far the new round of increases is likely to go remains to be seen.

But if the principal determinant in all this is going to be American resolution to bring the dollar supply under some semblance of control, then there are likely to be some distinctly uncomfortable months ahead.

The emphasis placed by various countries on the motives for raising their interest rates of late has varied. In some cases the emphasis clearly has been on curbing domestic expansion in the face of rising rates of inflation. In others, the latest round in oil prices being a common factor here, of course, albeit that the degree of impact varies considerably.

In other cases, the emphasis has also been on attempts to forestall capital outflows, to more remunerative havens, thus helping to stabilize the exchange rate and reduce the impact of the rising costs of imported raw materials.

Whatever the emphasis, however, the end effect if policies are pursued with vigour, is going to be a reduction in credit growth and, unless substantially offset by sharply higher fiscal deficits (and these seem to be less fashionable since the 1973 round of oil price increases) a fairly sharp fall in real money supplies.

The key of course is the resolution of the governments concerned to pursue high interest rate policies as far as "sound money" requires. Given that this would in effect mean acknowledging the need to pay for oil in currency that maintained its purchasing power, the implications for profits in real resources are, indeed, painful.

US resolve over monetary policy

So painful, in fact, are the implications that the very thought is enough to bring an immediate feeling of reassurance even to those who have paid rather more than the present price for gold. But smile though the gold hoarders may, there does appear to be a new determination about monetary policy in the United States, and there must be at least some grounds for thinking, albeit only in the election year and political pressures to "ease off" will be mounting, that the Fed would be seriously discredited were it once again felt to be starting to relax too soon.

If that is the case, then the

present monetary growth targets which are undeniably tight, strongly suggest that interest rates are going to have to stay high in the United States for more than just a matter of weeks. And so long as that is the case, then interest rates are not going to come tumbling down as readily as they are in Europe, or Japan.

Where does all this leave Britain? For once it may be that we will not have to move quite so closely in line with other countries. That may sound like good news, but it would be wrong to pretend that lower interest rates can be achieved here without some penalties, which will not be especially pleasant in the short term.

The reasons for believing the United Kingdom rates should start to come down ahead of other rates are twofold.

The first is that the economy, in spite of the momentum that has been sustained by high rates of increase in pay, looks to be moving into recession rather earlier in the international cycle than usual.

Slowdown in private sector loan demand

The second is that in the face of mounting discomfort with the present level of interest rates, the Chancellor appears to be making fresh efforts to ensure that the public sector's borrowing requirements for the coming financial year show no rise in nominal terms on the likely output for the present year of around £9,000m.

Given the probability that private sector loan demand should start rising less fast as the recession starts to bite, that should leave room for some fall in interest rates.

How great a fall will depend on two further factors, however. One will be the degree to which the Chancellor indicates he may wish further to tighten his monetary growth targets. The other will be the general response of financial markets to the Budget speech and the success the Government has in setting in motion its new funding programme.

All this does, of course, is open one further factor, namely flows across the exchanges, the exchange rate and all the related matters.

During the recent period of strong credit demand and high exchange rates there has been some talk of a move to sterling. This has not been profitable for exporters or for domestic manufacturers competing with foreign imports.

The Government has lived with this pressure to a large degree—though smoothing has tended to become more like straight intervention on some occasions—in the belief that domestic monetary policy must take priority. It might even have felt that the high exchange rate sign to take the edge off inflationary pressures, though its thinking on the short-run balance between inflation and competitiveness has never been all that clear.

But what happens next? If the domestic demand for money starts rising at a lower rate and interest rates fall, will money start to flow overseas in substantial quantities? Will that depress the exchange rate and raise inflation? Or will the Government's firm disinflationary line instead increase the confidence of overseas investors in the United Kingdom currency and tend to drive the exchange rate higher? The Chancellor would like to hope for a neutral effect. We shall see.

John Whitmore

Worker participation: the fifth directive goes into the shredder

David Wood describes how members of the European Parliament said no to two-tier boards

Eight years ago the EEC Commission in Brussels drafted what was called the fifth company law directive on worker participation. Under the old nominated European parliament it was approved and soon it might have become company law throughout the EEC. But yesterday the legal affairs committee of the new directly elected parliament threw the directive into a shredder.

Instead, it carried a report intended to make sure that the British, French and Italian right and centre members of the European Parliament over the West Germans, who wanted to see their own system of two-tier boards adopted, and over central socialist and communist who wanted to see more power to the workers' elbow. The Dutch, who have broadly adopted the West German system, showed where they stood yet were ready to compromise.

But the victory is not yet complete. By all accounts, the West German officials who first framed the directive have not slipped the struggle. The MEPs who carried complete redraft believe that the Commission will still stand by their original document and present it to the Council of Ministers during the summer in spite of the European Parliament.

If they do, the legal affairs committee will submit its redraft direct to the Council of Ministers and make absolutely clear where majority feeling in the Parliament lies.

Origination with able and it is being said "stiff-necked" German officials of the Commission, the fifth company law directive tried to steamroller through the German form of worker participation. That is, a two-tier board, with a third at least of the supervisory board appointed from the workers' side. Apart from Holland, no other Community country enforces such a system. The Bill-Joe Report on industrial democracy published in 1977, specifically rejected the West German model for Britain.

Nobody questions the merits of West German industrial relations or that workers' participation works well there. What is questioned is whether the German system could be superimposed upon countries with different industrial and trade union histories and structures.

The fight against adoption of the German system was led by the legal affairs committee of the elected European Parliament.

That is, members of all unions or of none would have a right to vote, as long as they were company employees. In West Germany, of course, the 17 individual organizations of the Confederation of German Trade Unions are unionized industry by industry, so that everyone working in the metal industry is a member of I.G. Metall and all such employees are in the Gied railway union.

Mr Turner and his colleagues from the right and centre in the legal affairs committee this week finally succeeded in persuading a majority that the Federal Republic's system, whatever its virtues, could not be forced as a straightjacket on the rest of the Nine without creating more problems than it solved, or without doing more harm than good.

There is no dispute in the parliamentary committee about the right of employees to know all the essential things that directly affect their lives and prospects. The type of elected works council proposed would have a legal right to be consulted by the unitary board on such questions as factory closures, transfers of operations, curtailment or extension of the undertaking, organizational changes and the terms of co-operation with other companies.

The council would also be entitled to hear reports on the progress and prospects of a company, competitiveness, the credit position and investment plans.

Moreover, the works council would be able to vote on the board's proposals and reports and thereby be able in time to influence decisions. But no vote would be a veto on the unitary board's final decision. It would, Mr Turner says, "be consultative, not dictatorial".

The battle between Parliament and the Commission will be publicly joined in April. By then Mr Aart Geurtsen, the Dutch rapporteur of the legal affairs committee, will be ready to bring forward his full proposals to the plenary session of the European Parliament in Strasbourg. Meanwhile, the Commission shows no sign of willingness to abandon its rejected fifth company law directive.

Mr Turner and his friends answer that the Commission's proposal stands little chance of being acceptable to the full Council of Ministers, whereas the parliamentary compromise does. He hopes that the United Kingdom particularly will welcome the legal affairs committee's handwork: "It will bring into British industrial relations a new factor at a crucial time. It is the only positive thing now being done politically. Everything else is a patching up operation."

Long-distance rig hopping

A helicopter which will be able to fly direct from Aberdeen to the most distant North Sea oil fields—Cormorant, Taiside, Magnus, Juno and Brae—will begin to take shape in Philadelphia.

The 44-seat Boeing Vertol Chinook, model 234LR, will more than double the range of this existing largest helicopter on the North Sea work which is under operation for Shell Expro in 1981.

Oilmen going to work in this area today are flown by fixed-wing aircraft from Aberdeen to Sumburgh, in the Shetlands, and then transfer to helicopters for the journey out to the rig.

For the workers the advantages of the new generation of big helicopters are obvious. If Boeing Vertol's claims are substantiated in service, they will not have to change aircraft and the Chinook will be faster and quieter—it even will have in-flight entertainment through stereo headphones.

The Chinook is a lot more expensive to operate than the biggest helicopter over the North Sea at present—the Sikorsky 661N. The rate for each flight hour for the Chinook is reputedly more than twice as much as for the Sikorsky.

But the Boeing can shift almost twice as many men, or twice as much equipment, and with its longer range can avoid the aerial traffic jams which are building up in the area.

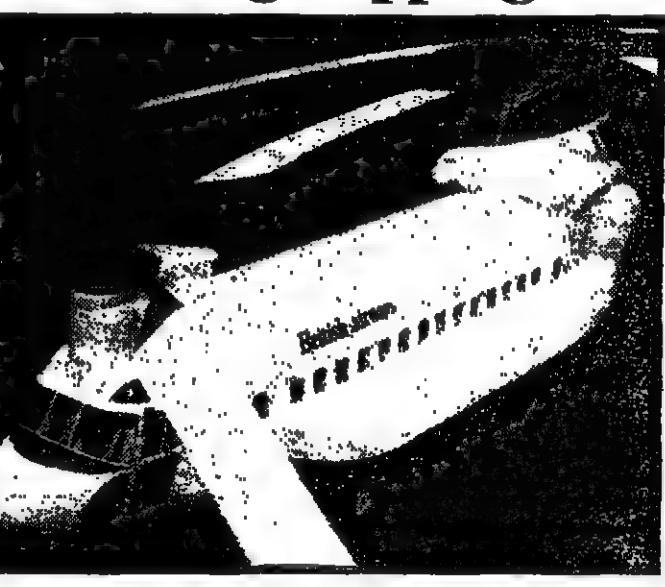
These are becoming particularly bad around Aberdeen and Sumburgh. The Civil Aviation Authority has spent more than £30m over the past five years on improvement at Sumburgh to keep pace with the growth of traffic. Last year there were 48,000 aircraft movements at Sumburgh, catering for a total of 625,000 passengers.

Under the terms of the contract between British Airways Helicopters and Shell Expro, the first three of six Chinooks, which BAH has ordered, will be based at a year direct from Aberdeen to the Brest Field. Boeing estimates that there are about 18,000 men working in the North Sea fields at any one time.

Aviation industry figures suggest that there are around 130 helicopters of all sizes worth £120m plying for trade over the North Sea, with a further 50 on order.

BAH is the first customer (Britov Helicopters have also ordered five) for the 234 LR civil version Chinook, which is based on the successful military helicopter of the same name, some 1,000 of which have been produced.

Vertol executives in Philadelphia see a world market of up to 250 for their product, most of them in support of the offshore oil industry. The means all Chinooks are already hauling less out of otherwise inaccessible sites in Canada, and as the search for



A model of the Boeing Chinook: double the range of helicopters at present on North Sea runs.

natural resources makes the prospect further and further away from the centres of civilization, a long-distance helicopter should come increasingly into its own.

Boeing sees growing pressure from the environmental lobby which will result in power stations—and particularly nuclear power stations—being built in more remote areas than in the past. This will result in longer transmission lines and towers; these installations could be built and serviced from Chinooks without hacking roads out of virgin countryside.

The same pressure will prevent townships from being built close to new mineral excavations and helicopters, so the Boeing reasoning goes, will be ideal for flying in the miners from their homes perhaps hundreds of miles away.

In oil exploration, as the oil price goes up, it will become economically feasible to drill more distant, involving men and materials over the longer distances will be ideal work for the civil Chinooks.

Boeing Vertol has had serious talks with BAH about the possibility of city-centre to city-centre passenger operations with the helicopter. This service could be undertaken by a 70-seater version of the machine.

Fixed-wing diehards in the airlines raise sceptical eyebrows at such a plan, but with airports becoming saturated, new sites impossible to find, and the cost of "traditional" aviation rising fast, it would be a brave aerospace crystal-ball gazer who dismissed it out of hand.

Captain Jack Cameron, managing director of BAH, has long promoted the idea of city-centre services between London and Paris, and Brussels and Amsterdam. He says: "We would take two hours, compared with four hours today. The higher cost of helicopter flying is likely to become progressively less important than the prob-

lem of overcoming environmental objections. BAH's studies centre around a helicopter site in the derelict East India docks. Flights from the point along the river might just escape the environmental lobby's ire, especially if aerodynamic improvements, such as rotor blades made from composite materials instead of metal, are included. What Cameron uses they are put to, there seems to be a big market for the civil Chinook. It is a business in which the British aviation electronics and equipment industry has an opportunity to share."

The Royal Air Force has ordered 33 Chinooks worth a total of £110m. As part of this deal, British firms are to supply £26m worth of equipment. The work will spill over into some 300 Chinooks which Vertol is refurbishing for the United States Army, and will undoubtedly have application for the commercial Chinooks as well.

So far, British aviation electronics and equipment firms have taken up around £10m worth of these contracts. Boeing executives say that they have had difficulty in finding British equipment at the right price and delivery date.

At the Paris Air Show last June the Boeing team went round the British industry stands imploring companies to bid so that the offset proportion in the deal could be attained.

Vertol is anxious to update the civil Chinook, but not at any cost, and there are plenty of companies in its own country anxious to supply. Meanwhile, Vertol is incorporating its own technological advances. Rotor blade construction is moving rapidly from the use of metal to composite material, enabling a better aerodynamic rotary wing shape to be produced, thus saving fuel.

Arthur Reed

Business Diary: Glossy rivals • Sixes, sevens and eight

London's railway stations are about to witness a circulation war in one of publishing's most lucrative areas.

Involved under various guises are Associated Newspapers, owners of the Daily Mail and the Evening News; the Irish Independent Group of Tony O'Reilly, president of Heinz and tipped to replace Roy Jenkins



at the EEC Commission; and an anonymous consortium whose new publication will be unveiled to commuters on Monday morning.

The battleground is the free women's magazine, pioneered in London by the Irish Group's London nine years ago. Associated followed suit a year later with Girl About Town, to be handed out free at Tube and other London railway stations.

Both have managed to attract a hefty slice of job advertisements away from the two London evening papers. The profitability of the glossy giveaways is secret, but there is no doubt that Associated make a good deal more money from Girl than from the Evening News.



Don't Post That

Consumerism, which the Secretary for Trade complains is "rampant" in Britain, is just getting its first foothold in China.

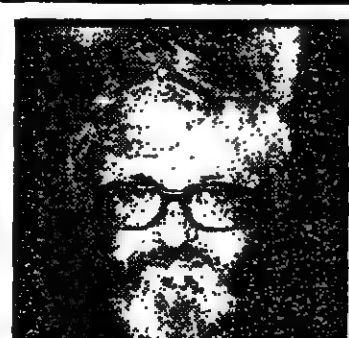
David Tench, the legal officer of the Consumers' Association, has just returned from a consumerists' expedition into the Chinese mainland. He reports that in Peking he actually watched a dissatisfied customer complaining vociferously about an item he had been sold—and getting it replaced.

He was also able to interview the general manager of the Peking Number One department store ("the nearest we got to Chairman Hua"), who said that anything his shop found difficult to sell would be modified, moved to other shops or, as a last resort, cut in price.

That, Tench says, puts the Chinese halfway towards the free play of market forces. But, most telling of all, it is

the prospect of a competitor, arising from a defection of advertising staff from Ms London, has stiffened both the existing publications. Ms London has added a midweek edition, the first of which comes out today. Girl is to embark upon an expensive advertising campaign, which will use television and promotions to "sell" it, even though it is being given away free.

The newcomer's name is being kept a secret, with many advertising agencies merely acknowledging that they have booked space with a new publication to appear on Monday. But I expect it to be called Metro, as in Mini Metro, BL's



David Tench

the Chinese who have supplied the most appealing alternative to the appalling word "customer". Their version of it translates literally as "money spending person".

Tench dreams of the deference that would greet him if he travelled in future as representative of the Money Spending Persons' Association.

potential saviour to be launched next October.

That too, will be launched into a difficult market, and perhaps a little late.

Paul Shewell, of accountants Coopers & Lybrand, could be forgiven for feeling a touch of déjà vu when he looks over the books of troubled toy group Dumble-Comber-Marc. Shewell was appointed receiver of Dumble on Tuesday, some 10 years almost to the day after he went in to a similar job at Linco Brothers. One of his first jobs there was to sell the Hornby trains, Scalextric and Sindy doll lines to the then up-and-coming Dumble.

The construction industry has been at sixes and sevens in recent weeks because of the threat of further cuts in its public sector workload.

This has been especially—and almost universally—true of the so-called Group of Eight, the industry pressure group comprising union, employer and professional representatives.

Last summer, the eight became seven when Les Wood, general secretary of the 348,000-strong Union of Construction, Allied Trades and Technicians, walked out. The immediate cause was said to be hostility towards direct labour payments from ministers.

No sooner had industry pundits started talking broadly of the "Magnificent Seven", than there were rumours that seven might become six. George Henderson, of the Transport and General Workers, was said to be growing impatient at the lack of progress made at talks with ministers whose policies he strongly opposed.

But Henderson stayed and, what is more, Wood has now been persuaded to rejoin the group after a formal invitation from Bryan Jefferson, president of the Royal Institute of British Architects. In a letter released by Ucat, Jefferson calls for all hands to the pump during the "critical" weeks ahead.

Wood says that he has decided to come back in the light of government policy which now threatens substantial job losses. "He adds, rather pointedly, "I do not think that anyone of us would want to witness a situation arising in construction similar to that which we have seen in the steel industry."

After eight years in the hot seat at Abbey Life, Britain's oldest and largest property bond (and now other things) group, chairman and managing director Fred Richardson has been elevated to senior vice-president of Abbey's parent organization, Hartford Insurance Group.

Translating the American title into English, Canadian Richardson will become managing director of one of the world's twenty largest life offices—which, not surprisingly, he finds "extremely challenging and tremendously exciting". As he has become a committed Anglophile, however, there are bound to be a few regrets about leaving Poole, in six months' time, for Connecticut.

Richardson reckons that American financial institutions are going through a difficult phase, because of unprecendented inflation, with which they are not well placed to cope.

"Black Bob" Scholey, the British Steel Corporation's chief executive, has printed an open invitation to striking steelworkers to "drop him a line" with their views on BSC's pay offer. The invitation is in a four-page bulletin distributed to the workforce yesterday.

Whether this last-ditch effort to influence rank and file opinion will work remains to be seen, but I feel sure that Scholey has guaranteed himself a colourful post for the next few weeks.

David Hewson

MARKET REPORTS

Wall Street

New York, Feb. 20.—The stock market rose in active trading this morning after three days of sharp retreat. The Dow Jones industrial average gained five points and advances led declines three-to-two.

The four most active issues were oil stocks.

February 19: The Dow Jones industrial average closed 8.96 down at 876.02.

Silver futures down

New York, Feb. 19.—Silver futures closed 31.00 lower in a volatile market with the silver market in the Commodity Exchange Center in New York. The silver market was down 31.00 to 341.00 an ounce. Speculators took the first trading session to liquidate their positions in the silver market.

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CHICAGO GRAIN: WHEAT—Mar. 30.50; Apr. 31.00; May 31.50; Jun. 32.00; Jul. 32.50; Aug. 33.00; Sep. 33.50; Oct. 34.00; Nov. 34.50; Dec. 35.00; Jan. 35.50; Feb. 36.00; Mar. 36.50; Apr. 37.00; May 37.50; Jun. 38.00; Jul. 38.50; Aug. 39.00; Sep. 39.50; Oct. 40.00; Nov. 40.50; Dec. 41.00; Jan. 41.50; Feb. 42.00; Mar. 42.50; Apr. 43.00; May 43.50; Jun. 44.00; Jul. 44.50; Aug. 45.00; Sep. 45.50; Oct. 46.00; Nov. 46.50; Dec. 47.00; Jan. 47.50; Feb. 48.00; Mar. 48.50; Apr. 49.00; May 49.50; Jun. 50.00; Jul. 50.50; Aug. 51.00; Sep. 51.50; Oct. 52.00; Nov. 52.50; Dec. 53.00; Jan. 53.50; Feb. 54.00; Mar. 54.50; Apr. 55.00; May 55.50; Jun. 56.00; Jul. 56.50; Aug. 57.00; Sep. 57.50; Oct. 58.00; Nov. 58.50; Dec. 59.00; Jan. 59.50; Feb. 60.00; Mar. 60.50; Apr. 61.00; May 61.50; Jun. 62.00; Jul. 62.50; Aug. 63.00; Sep. 63.50; Oct. 64.00; Nov. 64.50; Dec. 65.00; Jan. 65.50; Feb. 66.00; Mar. 66.50; Apr. 67.00; May 67.50; Jun. 68.00; Jul. 68.50; Aug. 69.00; Sep. 69.50; Oct. 70.00; Nov. 70.50; Dec. 71.00; Jan. 71.50; 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RADIO

Radio 4

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Bent ; Computing and Computers.



WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN: †STEREO; *BLACK AND WHITE;
(r) REPEAT

PHAMES

1.30 am For Schooners: Making a Living (Gaelic); 9.52 Believe it or Not (Sichian); 10.00 Look at (countywide); 10.26 French sketches about love; 10.46 Breton (now power); 11.05 Books (Alan Garner); 11.27 Seeing and Doing (pets); 11.44 Picture (the red-milled hawk).

1.00 Tupper's Tales: Julian (1.00) and his own story, old Julian, With Peter Peck driving.

1.20 pm Stopping Stances: Everything is tied to the theme of bread. The Sullivan; Australian family saga; 1.40 The war.

1.00 News. 1.20 Thames News.

3.30 Together: Life in a block of flats. Will Julie terminate her life.

4.00 After Noon Film: Includes the regular medical feature (today it's about bronchitis and other chest complaints), and a look at a new exhibition about the Boat People.

4.45 Spills of War: Repeat of last Sunday's instalment of this drama

the immediate post-war period.

3.45 How's Your Father? Harry Worth comedy series, with Mr. Worth's father, a flower with two message children.

3.55 Salvage 1: Part 2 of the adventure series *Golden Orbit*, about a shipwrecked plane.

4.15 White Light: Young people, in the studio, discuss education with representatives of the National Union of School Students and the National Union of Teachers.

4.45 News. 5.00 *Times News*.

5.25 Help! Telling your neighbours about the social security changes to which they are entitled.

5.35 Crossroads: Novel serial. Will Plimmer's old enemy become her friend?

6.00 Look Familiar: Music hall variety, with Beryl Reid, Roy Hudd and Jimmy Marshall as comedians, and Denis Norden as presenter.

6.30 The Jim Davidson show: *New series.* The theme of tonight's show is love and marriage.

7.00 The Doreen Rye play: Mr Davidson's wife in the sketches.

Regions

BEC. 1. VARIATIONS: WALES: 2.15
B.C. 1. SODOLIN: 2.65; Wales Today:
10.00 News: 10.00-10.05: 10.05-
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Granada

As London except: 3.45 am Look

Grampian

Tyne Tees
 As London except: 8.25 am First Thine.
 9.45 am News Looks Familiar. 4.15 Little
 House on the Prairie. 5.10 Mark and
 Mandy. 5.40 Police News. 6.00 North
 Tonight. 7.00 Electric Theatre Show.
 10.30 Soap. 11.00 Luke's Kingdom.
 12.05 am George Hamilton IV.

Scottish

Scottish
As London except: 3.45 pm Looks Familiar. 4.15 Larry the Lamb. 4.25 Little House on the Prairie. 5.20 Crossroads. 6.00 Scotland Today. 6.30 Report. 7.00 Take the High Road. 10.30

Southern

La London except: 1.30 pm Together.
 2.45 Houseparty. 3.15 Selwyn. 3.45
 Looks Familiar. 4.15 Project UFO. 5.10
 Cartoon. 5.20 Crossroads. 6.00 Day by
 Day. 6.30 University Challenge. 7.00
 Emmdale Farm. 10.35 People Rule!
 11.05 Star Parade. 12.05 am What the

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THURSDAY FEBRUARY 21 1980

THE TIMES

PERSONAL COLUMNS

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE TIMES

The Times deeply regrets the inconvenience and reduction in service to its classified advertisers. This is caused by severe staff shortages in the Telephone Sales Department. Whilst everything possible is being done to improve the situation, we would ask advertisers to continue sending advertisements and notices in writing to The Times, Room N315, PO Box 7, New Printing House Square, Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. If you require any further help, please ring 01-837 3311; we apologise should there be a delay in getting through.

CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE LIGHTS OF ST. JAMES'S

The annual dinner of the club will be held on Tuesday, 26th February, at 7.30 p.m. at the club. The menu will be as follows: Roast Beef, Yorkshire Pudding, Gravy, Peas, Carrots, Potatoes, Bread, Cheese, and Fruit. The price is £10.00 per person. Tickets are available from the club secretary, Mrs. J. Smith, at 01-837 3311.

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We make every effort to avoid errors in advertisements. Each one is carefully checked and proof read. When thousands of advertisements are handled each day mistakes do occur and we ask therefore that you check your ad and, if you spot an error, report it to the Classified Queries Department immediately by telephoning 01-837 3311 (Ext. 7188). We regret that we cannot be responsible for more than one day's incorrect insertion if you do not.

THE DEADLINE FOR ALL COPY IS 24 HOURS.

Alterations to copy in 3.00 pm prior to the day of publication. For Monday's issue the deadline is 12 noon Saturday. On all cancellations a Stop Number will be issued to the advertiser. On any subsequent queries regarding the cancellation, this Stop Number must be quoted.

I saw under the altar the bones of my father and mother and I was very much surprised to find them there. I was very much surprised to find them there. I was very much surprised to find them there.

Revolution 6: 5.

BIRTHS

ALLEN - On 19th February, 1980, Linda (nee Bennett) and Terry Allen (nee Bennett) have a daughter, Linda. Linda is the first child of the couple. Linda is the first child of the couple. Linda is the first child of the couple.

BARDSLEY - On 20th February, 1980, David (nee Bardsley) and Mary (nee Bardsley) have a daughter, Mary. Mary is the first child of the couple. Mary is the first child of the couple. Mary is the first child of the couple.

BUTCH - On 19th February, 1980, John (nee Butch) and Jane (nee Butch) have a daughter, Jane. Jane is the first child of the couple. Jane is the first child of the couple. Jane is the first child of the couple.

CHUTTER - On 19th February, 1980, John (nee Chutter) and Jane (nee Chutter) have a daughter, Jane. Jane is the first child of the couple. Jane is the first child of the couple. Jane is the first child of the couple.

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